THURSDAY
January 25, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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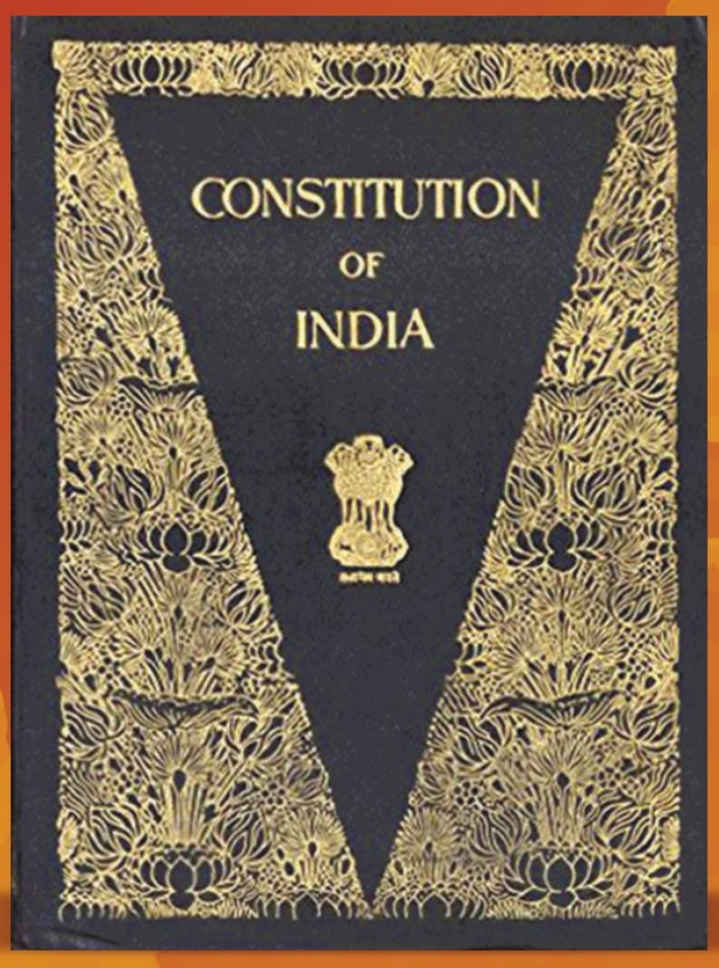
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Social Welfare Department

Constitution Draft Committee Chairman
Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar handing over the final draft of the Indian Constitution to **Dr. Rajendra Prasad,**
Hon'ble President of the Constituent Assembly of India.

Our Rights
Our Constitution



Karnataka Government is organising a state-wide

Constitution Awareness Jatha

to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution authored by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
From 26 January, 2024

26-01-2024: **Constitution Awareness Jatha to be flagged off by** respective District in-Charge Ministers in each District

25-02-2024: **Mega Convention** in Bengaluru

Seminar on social, economic and political justice and equality

Science Exhibition in schools

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Participate in large numbers and make this a grand success.

For Further Information Visit
https://constitutionofindia-karnataka.in/home-kannada/

Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa
Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare addressing a meeting.

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- FREE BUS Service for women across Karnataka
- Gruha Jyothi — Up to 200 Units of Free Electricity to each home
- Anna Bhagya — 10kg Free Food Grains (per person / per month) Rs. 170 per head in lieu of 5kg food grains
- Gruha Lakshmi — ₹2000 per month to female head of the family
- Yuva Nidhi — ₹3000 Per month for Graduates | ₹1500 Per month for Diploma Holders

Wishing a Happy 75th Republic Day to All

As is enshrined in our Constitution, "to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture" is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

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Make ASI report public, says court

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WAR ZONE

Israel, Hamas move closer to a deal on a 30-day truce

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NYAY YATRA ROW

Will arrest Rahul after LS election: Assam CM

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A test of 'rules-based international order'

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NEW HIGH

Bopanna set to make history as No. 1

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NEARBY

Mobile app to coordinate ambulance trips

BENGALURU
The Bengaluru Traffic Police have developed a new mobile app, presently being tested with 108 ambulance service, which will use the might of the Traffic Management Centre to coordinate a smooth trip for ambulances. » Page 2

Temporary suspension of metro services

BENGALURU
Namma Metro services on the Green Line between Peenya Industry and Nagasandra will be suspended from January 26 to 28. » Page 3

Development works to resume

BENGALURU
With an allocation of ₹2,000 crore spread across 120 diverse initiatives, the BBMP has rekindled the flame of development after a long lull.
» Page 6

Russian plane with 65 POWs crashes; Moscow says Ukraine shot it down

Reuters
MOSCOW

Russia accused Ukraine on Wednesday of deliberately shooting down a Russian military transport plane carrying 65 captured Ukrainian soldiers to a prisoner exchange in what it called a barbaric act of terrorism that had killed a total of 74 people.

The Russian Defence Ministry said apart from the 65 prisoners of war, six Russian crew members and three Russian soldiers had been on the Ilyushin Il-76 military transport plane shot down near the Russian city of Belgorod near the Ukrainian border.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Russia has called for an emergency U.N. Security Council session to discuss the incident. Mr. Lavrov told a press conference at the United Nations that Russia had called for the Security Council meeting. He called the downing of the aircraft on Wednesday a "criminal" act by Ukraine and said Russia sought the session so the Ukrainians could explain how the plane went down.

"The Ukrainian prisoners of war were transported to the Belgorod region in order to conduct yet another swap that was agreed between Moscow and Kyiv," Mr. Lavrov said.

In flames: Smoke rising from the site of the alleged crash of the aircraft at Belgorod region in Russia. According to Russian Defence Ministry, a total of 74 people were killed in the incident. AP

"Instead of this, the Ukrainian side launched an air defence missile from the Kharkov region. It targeted the airplane and was a fatal strike."

Ukraine did not directly confirm it had shot down the plane, nor that Ukrainian prisoners were on board. But the Ukrainian military said it would continue to destroy Russian military transport aircraft it believed were carrying missiles with which to strike Ukraine.

The Russian Ministry said the exchange was to take place on Wednesday afternoon at the Kolotilovka border checkpoint and that Ukraine knew a transport plane carrying captured Ukrainian soldiers was expected at the Belgorod airfield. "By committing this terrorist act, the Ukrainian leadership has showed its true face. It disregarded the lives of its own citizens," it said.

But Ukraine's GUR military intelligence agency said Ukraine had not been asked to ensure airspace security around Belgorod unlike previous swaps and had not been informed about what means of transport would be used and which routes.

"On this basis, we may be talking about planned and deliberate actions by Russia to destabilise the situation in Ukraine and weaken international support for our state," the GUR said in a statement on Telegram.

Russia's Defence Ministry said its radar operators had detected the launch of two Ukrainian missiles at the time of the crash.

Mamata rules out LS election alliance with Cong. in West Bengal

She says the party rejected Trinamool's offer of two seats; the future of the national alliance will be decided after the Lok Sabha polls, she adds

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress has shut the door on any alliance with the Congress in West Bengal for the Lok Sabha election, with party chief and State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee adding that the future of a national alliance would be considered after the election.

"I had no discussions with the Congress party or anyone else. We had given a proposal which they refused from the start. Since then, our party has decided that we will fight alone in West Bengal," she said.

The Trinamool has expressed frustration with the seat-sharing talks, where it offered two seats to the Congress. The Congress had sought six seats. Of the 42 MPs that Bengal sends to the Lok Sabha, two are currently from the Congress and 23 are from the Trinamool.

The Congress continued to cling to hope for a way forward in the discussions, with communications chief Jairam Ramesh stressing that both parties were engaged in a fight against the BJP. Ms. Banerjee also expressed her displeasure that the Congress had not informed her that its ongoing Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra would enter West Bengal.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

No deal: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addressing a gathering in Bardhaman district on Wednesday. PTI

No AAP-Congress alliance in Punjab, says Mann

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Dismissing the possibility of an alliance with the Congress in the State, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday reiterated that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will win all the 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab in the 2024 Lok Sabha election,

Mr. Mann said that "AAP is not going with them [Congress]."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Trump wins New Hampshire primary; Haley vows to fight on

Reuters
MANCHESTER

Former President Donald Trump cruised to victory in New Hampshire's Republican presidential contest on Tuesday, marching closer to a November rematch with U.S. President Joe Biden even as his sole remaining rival for the nomination, Nikki Haley, vowed to soldier on.

"This race is far from over," Ms. Haley, a former UN Ambassador, told supporters at a post-election party in Concord, challenging Mr. Trump to debate her.

"I'm a fighter. And I'm scrappy. And now we're the last one standing next to Donald Trump."

At his own party in Nashua, Mr. Trump, 77, opened his speech by mocking Ms. Haley, 52, calling her an "imposter" and saying: "She's doing, like, a speech like she won. She didn't win. She lost ... She had a very bad night."

The next competitive contest is scheduled for February 24 in South Carolina, where Ms. Haley was born and served two terms as Governor.

In New Hampshire, with 86% of the expected vote tallied, according to Edison Research, Mr. Trump held a comfortable 54.4% to 43.5% lead.

Ms. Haley had hoped the northeastern State's sizeable cadre of independent voters would carry her to an upset win that might loosen Mr. Trump's iron grip on the Republican Party.

Donald Trump

Instead, Mr. Trump became the first Republican to sweep competitive votes in both Iowa and New Hampshire since 1976, when the two States cemented their status as the first nominating contests.

Tuesday's vote was the first one-on-one match-up between Mr. Trump and Ms. Haley, after Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, once seen as Mr. Trump's most formidable challenger, dropped out on Sunday and endorsed Mr. Trump.

Meanwhile, Edison projected Mr. Biden, 81, the winner of the New Hampshire Democratic primary, brushing aside challenger, U.S. Representative Dean Phillips.

Telecom Act will hold good for many years: Minister

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Telecommunications Act, 2023, passed by Parliament, "is a set of real structural reforms which will hold us good for many, many years," Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw told *The Hindu* in an interview.

"We are moving away from a licence permit regime to a very calculated authorisation for a long period," he said.

"We have a four-tier structure for dispute resolution as well as a way for telecom companies to self-report violations," Mr. Vaishnaw said.

The Union Minister also said that international memoranda of understanding (MoUs) to spread India Stack technologies like Aadhaar have seen a "huge response," and that additionally eighteen countries had shown interest in procuring telecom technology from India, with telecom equipment exports already hitting ₹9,000 crores from India.

INTERVIEW ON » PAGE 15

Fiery feat

The Army Service Corps Motorcycle Display Team rehearsing for the Republic Day celebrations, in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR (ANOTHER PHOTO ON PAGE 6)

Dalit student assaulted over WhatsApp status on Rama, Ambedkar

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

A 17-year-old pre-university student belonging to a Dalit community has been allegedly assaulted by a group of people for sporting a WhatsApp status that carried images of Lord Rama along with B.R. Ambedkar.

The attackers were purportedly incensed over the victim "belittling Lord Rama". The boy was allegedly later forced to chant 'Jai Sri Ram' at a local temple in Humnabad, Bidar district, on Monday, the day of the consecration ceremony of Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Following a complaint by the victim, the Humnabad police on Tuesday registered a case and arrested four people – Abhishek, Retesh Reddy, Sunil Reddy, and Abhishek Telanga.

The victim said, "They slapped me and hit me. They later dragged me into a Hanuman temple and forced me to pay my respect to the deity and raise the Jai Sri Ram slogan."

This course helps 'solve problems that even AI tools struggle to'

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

At a time when it seems like Artificial Intelligence (AI) will take over the world, professors at the International Institute of Information Technology (IIITB) have introduced a new course – Competitive Programming – that will help humans solve problems that even AI tools struggle with.

Competitive programming is a course in which students learn data structure, algorithms and, most importantly, efficient problem solving skills, which will help them extract information efficiently from tools like Chat GPT.

"If we can sum up what this course does in one line, we can say that it makes students better problem solvers," said Vivek Yadav, a professor at IIITB, who is leading the course along with V. N. Muralidhara. The value-added course, which was introduced in October 2023 saw enrolment of 550 students, which is 40% of students in IIITB across all the courses.

"With the evolution of AI, Chat GPT and other tools, students need to become very good problem solvers. All tech companies, like Microsoft, Google and Facebook, need problem solvers. AI tools like GPT are rote learners, and solve mundane problems. But when it comes to using Chat GPT for actual problem solving, we can get the initial code, but to analyse and debunk that code, it is taking double time," Prof Yadav said.

"In technical terms, it hallucinates. It is not able to give true results. To correct it, we need to spend more time." The course was inaugurated by two alumni of IIITB, Aditya Paliwal and Simran Dokania, who had participated in competitive learning competitions and are now working as a quantitative researcher and software engineer, respectively.

Aditya Paliwal explained the importance of the course saying, "GPT has some fundamental limitations, and struggles with critical thinking and problem solving. To extract the most out of it, you need intelligent human beings. If you are not aware, then you cannot tell when GPT gives out wrong results or why it is wrong. With so many using it blindly, this problem is going to plague the industry, and we will end up with software disasters. If students are not skilled to detect these mistakes, then they will ruin their careers."

Prof. Yadav said that the things being taught in the course are helping students crack the initial interview rounds. "The problems they are solving in the course are being asked in the interviews."

With so many people enrolling for the course, the professors have entrusted teaching assistants to train many students. "We set up the curriculum and problems, but it is being driven by senior students (who have done well in competitive programming) and third-party resources," he said.

The deepening embrace between tennis and technology

What comes under the ambit of tennis analytics? How are technology firms innovating to keep pace with the modern game? What about the human element in sports?

N. Sudarshan
Vijay Krishnamurthy

GETTY IMAGES

When Roger Federer whipped that forehand crosscourt on championship point against his greatest rival Rafael Nadal in the 2017 Australian Open final, he could not celebrate immediately because Nadal had appealed for a Hawk-Eye review. Hawk-Eye is the computer vision system that visually tracks the trajectory of the ball and displays a profile of its most likely path. It is so ubiquitous in tennis today that an average fan cannot remember a time without it.

In fact, the final three points of that momentous final all had Hawk-Eye interventions. There was as much technology as tennis. The storied rivalry between Federer and Nadal had had its share of cliff-hanger matches, and now the entire world was waiting for Hawk-Eye to declare the champion. Machines loaded with simulation software would decide the winner and the humans would have to wait. The famous words of the television commentator Robert Koenig at that juncture were, "Fate now in the hands of the Hawk-Eye."

Hawk-Eye called the ball in, and then Federer had a delayed celebration. If John McEnroe had been Federer's opponent that day, he might have yelled, "You cannot be serious" at the machine. Laws of sports fandom work on a different plane and it wouldn't be a surprise to find Nadal supporters doubting that decision even to this day. But the bottom line was that technology was trusted to arrive at a better conclusion than humans and there had to be an acceptance of the same, even if grudgingly.

The evolution

The use of technology in tennis has evolved over time. Firms like IBM have been associated with prestigious events like Wimbledon and the US Open for over three decades. By the 1990s, with the advent of improved racquet technology, tennis became a 'power sport' with the likes of Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi leading the way.

When the average speed of the first serve was over 100 mph, the job of a line umpire was not easy. Routine squabbles between players and referees meant something had to be done by the tennis federations and that led to the initial forays of technological support into the sport.

In recent times, it took a non-fiction book titled "Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game" by Michael Lewis in 2003, along with the adapted version as a Hollywood movie, to show how statistical data can play a significant role in the success of a sports team (the Oakland Athletics team in the 2002 season of the Major League Baseball).

In tennis, the Bengaluru-headquartered IT behemoth Infosys is the technology partner of the ATP Tour. Over the years, over 150 million digital fans have interacted with Infosys Match Centre, including 3000 players and coaches for Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven coaching solutions.

"The Infosys Tennis platform uses dimensions such as player rankings, length of rallies, crowd noise levels, and distance between the ball and the player to provide each point with an AI score," Sumit Virmani, Global Chief Marketing Officer, Infosys, told *The Hindu*. "This helps the media rank the best shots of the day. For players and coaches, the platform studies tennis matches and suggests areas of strength and ones to improve."

In other words, when a tennis match goes live, every shot is now a data point, whether it is a winner or an error. As fans enjoy the match, a parallel analytics game begins at the back end. Thousands of these data points are fed into data servers and become a treasure for statisticians to analyse and match trends to the granular level of "who will win the next point? What strategy will the player adopt?"

Fuelled by the worldwide penetration of smartphones, the speed, scale, and impact of technology in recent times have witnessed a significant surge. Integrating analytics into sports has also transformed how athletes train and compete, and how coaches strategise.

"The three key aspects where athletes and coaches can benefit greatly are performance optimisation, injury prevention and tactical adjustment," said Soudeep Deb, Assistant Professor, Decision Sciences Area at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. "In the first aspect, analytics provides detailed insights into an athlete's performance metrics, including speed, agility, strength, and endurance.

"Regarding injury prevention, monitoring biomechanical data and tracking workload through analytics has become a common practice. The final, arguably the most critical need of analytics is preparing strategies or making tactical adjustments for specific matches," Prof. Deb added.

Shifting sands

Access to data and the adoption of technology by players and coaches were rare in the earlier decade. A player's talent was the be-all and end-all and Harsh Mankad, a former Indian Davis Cup player, recalled a traditional method he used during his playing days on the ATP Tour.

"I started professional tennis in 2002, and I played till 2010, and at that point, there wasn't much analytics," he said. "We weren't getting much data either before or after the match. Certain individuals had started putting up cameras behind the courts and recording. Some parents, travelling coaches would hook up a camera stand and record the matches. So, I would say that was the early stage of getting the video data."

Prof. Deb felt that tennis lagging behind other sports in embracing technology and data is because of three main reasons. "It is possibly connected to the individualistic nature of the sport," he said. "Traditionally, the players' skill, intuition, and on-court decision-making have been thought to be the key behind their success. This is in stark contrast to team sports like football or baseball, where statistical analysis is more readily applicable to collective strategies.

"Tennis coaching has also traditionally been built on personal relationships between coaches and players, relying heavily on observation, experience, and hands-on guidance. The integration of analytics requires a shift in coaching methodologies.

"The final point is that tennis historically lacked comprehensive and standardised data collection. While basic statistics like aces and unforced errors have long been tracked, the depth and granularity of data were limited.

"It is also imperative to point out that smaller budgets and resource constraints in tennis compared to major team sports might have limited the investment in analytics infrastructure. Teams and organisations may prioritise other aspects of player development over the acquisition and implementation of advanced analytics technologies," added Prof. Deb.

However, similar to how technology moved from enterprise level to personal computing, a pattern is being observed in tennis as well. An elite tennis player now travels with an entourage of scientific experts - fitness trainers, nutritionists, psychologists, analysts and doctors. The coach's job is to gather all data dimensions of a player and distil the information into specific actions required to win the next match or tournament. With large datasets now made available, the analysis process is in-depth.

One could have all the gadgets and tools but what about the human mind? Players burst into anger, break racquets and argue endlessly with referees. What effect do these have on player performances? There are times when emotions are self-directed to channel their motivation to uplift performance. A television commentator once remarked, "Andy Murray speaks to himself more than commentators do with their microphones."

And at times these are cues for the opponents to note. Most recently, World No.1 Novak Djokovic told CBS News' 60 Minutes interview that he even observes how his opponent is breathing so that he can strategise. Surely, that cannot be quantified!

"It is well documented that when the energy level is low, the player wants to finish the point faster," said Mankad. "Contrary to their behaviour in the training sessions, I've seen top players rushing through the points when their energy levels dip or due to external situations like a bad line call or the crowd rooting for their opponent.

"The coach's observation of such situations is paramount to the athlete's development since this is beyond statistics and data analysis," added Mankad.

Way ahead

What all of this suggests is that technology is a tool that aids in better decision-making by humans. In the world of tennis, the plethora of products and services available are consumed by athletes, coaches, fans and administrators as means to arrive at finer conclusions.

"When you consider the tennis ecosystem, Infosys has launched over 30 innovations converging the power of AI, cloud, metaverse, mixed reality, and other new-age tech," said Virmani.

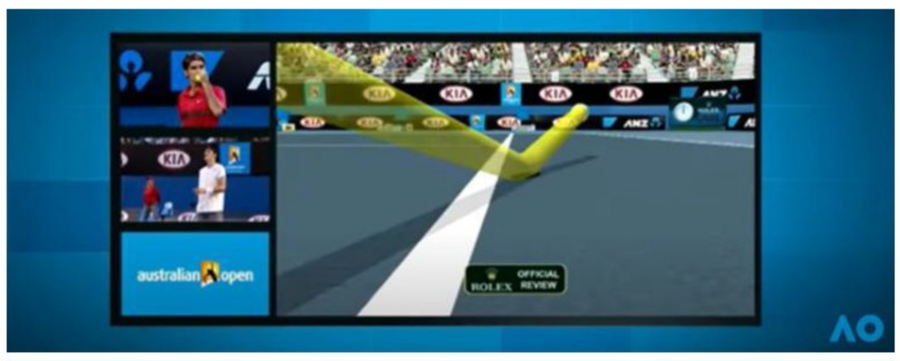
"MatchBeats, Second Screen, and Courtvision 3D are innovative solutions that ingest data from sources like the chair umpire's tablet, the high-definition cameras deployed by Hawk-Eye, and the speed gun deployed on the court. Then, within a few milliseconds, they produce easy-to-understand visual output for fans," Virmani added.

In today's world, a day without technology is unimaginable. But as the oft-repeated mantra goes, 'AI will not replace humans, but humans with AI will replace humans without AI.'

"Advancements in technology, increased data availability and the success stories of analytics in other sports have prompted a growing recognition of the value analytics can bring," said Prof. Deb. "As the sport evolves, analytics integration will likely become more commonplace."

THE GIST

- The use of technology in tennis has evolved over time, with firms like IBM and Infosys taking on bigger roles with prestigious events like the Grand Slams
- Elite tennis players now travel with an entourage of scientific experts — fitness trainers, nutritionists, psychologists, analysts and doctors
- Tennis, after lagging behind other team sports like basketball and baseball, is finally catching up



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SIR MUTHA CONCERT HALL — Day 1 - January 26, 2024 — THE HINDU PAVILION (Next to Sir Mutha Concert Hall)

	SIR MUTHA CONCERT HALL	THE HINDU PAVILION
9.30 to 9.45 am	**Inauguration**	
9.45 to 10.45 am		**Faultlines of Faith** Arjun Appadurai, Revati Laul, and Ziya us Salam in conversation with Varghese K. George
9.50 to 11.05 am	**Rich India: Will India Become a Wealthy Nation by 2047?** Jayati Ghosh, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, N. Ravi, Sanjay Kaul and T.N. Ninan in conversation with Raghuvir Srinivasan	
10.50 to 11.40 am		**Memory and Home: Home and Life in Exile** Ronya Othmann in conversation with Katharina Gorgen
11.10 to 11.50 am	**Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi I Am An Ordinary Man: India's Struggle for Freedom (1914-1948)** Gopalkrishna Gandhi	
11.45 to 12.35 pm		**Finding the Song in Sangam Poetry** T.M. Krishna and Perumal Murugan in conversation (Bilingual)
12.00 noon to 12.50 pm	**Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle Against the British Maritime Empire** A.R. Venkatachalapathy in conversation with Ramachandra Guha	
12.40 to 1.30 pm		**The Inner Workings of Power** Neerja Chowdhury in conversation with Ramya Kannan
12.55 to 1.40 pm	**Remembering Vivan Sundaram: A Journey Through Images** Ashish Rajadhyaksha	
2.10 to 3.10 pm		**May I Have Your Attention Please?: How to Hold an Audience** Anuradha Menon, Cyrus Broacha, and Kanan Gill in conversation with Suresh Balakrishna
2.20 to 3.10 pm	**The Power Couple: The Life and Times of Sudha and Narayana Murthy** Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni in conversation with Shunali Shroff	
3.15 to 4.05 pm		**The Maverick Politician** Mani Shankar Aiyar in conversation with Chandan Gowda
3.15 to 4.00 pm	**Recalling Habib Tanvir: Excerpts from the Film and a Talk** Sudhanva Deshpande	
4.10 to 5.00 pm		**Breakup: A Marriage in Wartime** Anjan Sundaram in conversation with Stanly Johny
4.10 to 4.50pm	**Bahubali: Insights into Jainism** Devdutt Pattanaik	
5.05 to 5.55 pm		**Breaking Form to Build Narrative: An Experiment with Translation** Charu Nivedita and Nandini Krishnan in conversation (Bilingual)
4.55 to 5.40 pm	**Food Against Fanaticism** Subodh Kerkar	
6.00 to 6.50 pm		**Too Woke To Be Funny** Kiran Manral and Shunali Shroff in conversation with Rosella Stephen
5.45 to 6.45 pm	**Wizard of Words** Shashi Tharoor in conversation with David Davidar	
6.50 to 7.50 pm	**Imaging Women Nationalists: Serving the Nation State** Anita Ratnam and Shovana Narayan in conversation with Shalin Maria Lawrence	
7.55 to 8.45 pm	**The Sporting Heroine** Taapsee Pannu in conversation with Vidya Singh	

SIR MUTHA CONCERT HALL — Day 2 - January 27, 2024 — THE HINDU PAVILION (Next to Sir Mutha Concert Hall)

	SIR MUTHA CONCERT HALL	THE HINDU PAVILION
10.00 to 10.50 am	**The Power of Idol Worship** Amish and Bhavna Roy in conversation with Anita Ratnam	
10.00 to 10.50 am		**Some Truths About Pain and Suffering** Shweta Singh Kirti in conversation with Chitra Mahesh
10.55 to 11.45 am	**Let's Talk Money: Making Your Money Work For You** Monika Halan in conversation with Aarathi Krishnan	
10.55 to 11.55 am		**A Crime Wave** Anuja Chauhan, Harini Nagendra, Kiran Manral and Tarun Mehrishi in conversation with K.C. Vijaya Kumar
11.55 am to 12.45 pm	**The Cooking of Books** Ramachandra Guha in conversation with Nirmala Lakshman	
12.00 noon to 12.50 pm		**The World of Storyteller: The Power of Rooted Fiction** Tejaswini Apte-Rahm and Abdullah Khan in conversation Nandini Krishnan
12.50 to 1.45 pm	**Journey to India Modern** Tarun Tahiliani in conversation with Rosella Stephen	
12.55 to 1.45 pm		**A Taste of Memory: A Celebration of Food and Family** Tarana Husain Khan and Rakesh Raghunathan in conversation with Deepa S. Reddy
2.25 to 3.25 pm	**Beyond the Kitchen: Chefs Forging a Fresh Culinary Landscape** Chef Manu Chandra, Chef Sashi Cheliah, Chef Thomas Zacharias in conversation with Shonali Muthalaly	
2.30 to 3.20 pm		**Acts of God** Kanan Gill in conversation with Anuradha Menon
3.30 to 4.30 pm	**A Viral World: Countering Fake News** Sreenivasan Jain, N. Ram and Pratik Sinha in conversation with Ziya us Salam	
3.25 to 4.15 pm		**Double Distilled Fiction** Daisy Rockwell in conversation with K. Srilata
4.40 to 5.30 pm	**India's Last High Commissioner to Pakistan: The Inside Story** Ajay Bisaria in conversation with Varghese K. George	
4.20 to 5.10 pm		**Dalit History: Text and Context Reading and Reconstructing Dalit History through Dalit Non-Fiction** Stalin Rajangam in conversation with G. Gurusamy (Tamil)
5.35 to 6.20 pm	**The Body Politic** Pushpamala N	
5.15 to 6.05 pm		**Another India: Events, Memories People** Chandan Gowda in conversation with Suresh Seshadri
6.25 to 7.05 pm	**Democracy Fatigue: Why is the World Moving Towards the Right?** Arjun Appadurai	
6.10 to 7.00 pm		**Narratives of the Oppressed: Voices of Assertion** Perumal Murugan and Azhagiya Periyavan in conversation (Tamil)
7.10 to 8.00 pm	**Transformative Leadership in ISRO: My Experience** S. Somanath	

Scan and register to participate or visit newsth.live/Litfest2024

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Traffic Management Centre to soon coordinate ambulance trips in city

If an ambulance is stuck in congestion, an alert is generated at the TMC through an app, prompting an intervention

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

An ambulance caught in a traffic jam on Mysuru Road flyover. FILE PHOTO

Ambulances stuck in a traffic jam is a common sight in the city and multiple initiatives like synchronisation of signals to end this have failed to take off. Now, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) have developed a new mobile phone application, presently being tested with 108 ambulance service, which will use the might of the Traffic Management Centre (TMC) to coordinate a smooth trip for ambulances on the city's congested streets.

An ambulance driver has to enter the destination in the app when he starts the trip both to the patient's location and back to the hospital.

This trip and the route map is flagged at the TMC. Not all trips need the intervention of the TMC. However, if an ambulance is stuck in congestion, which is now being measured as the ambulance travelling at a speed less than 5 kmph for two minutes or more, an alert is generated at the TMC, prompting an intervention, explained M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner (Traffic), Bengaluru.

Following an alert from an ambulance stuck in congestion, TMC has multiple options to intervene. "The kind of intervention depends on the nature of blockage. Usually it is a vehicle pile-up, but in some cases they are vehicle breakdowns, accidents or processions or other forms of road blockages," Mr. Anucheth said.

First, an alert will go to the traffic personnel at the next immediate junction. Because of the e-attendance app, every traffic personnel is geotagged and the TMC knows the location of each of them. The personnel at the next junction will look into it and try to make way for the ambulance. If there is congestion, the traffic police will immediately turn the signal green which will have a sequential impact on all further junctions.

"There are an estimated 2,200 ambulances in the city, some of which may be defunct. At present, 108 ambulance services have been onboarded and we are already facilitating 4,000-5,000 ambulance trips a month on a trial basis. We are working to soon onboard all private ambulance services. The service may be fully functional in the next couple of months," Mr. Anucheth said.

Missing 12-year-old student found in Hyderabad

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The 12-year-old student of Deens Academy, Gunjur, who was reported missing from Whitefield, Bengaluru, on Sunday was traced at Nampally metro station in Hyderabad early on Tuesday morning.

"The child is now safe with his parents. We have received confirmation from the Hyderabad police as well," Shivakumar Gunare, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Whitefield, told *The Hindu* confirming the news. The minor's family left for Hyderabad on Tuesday night after receiving information that he was found, he added. The family was on the way back from Hyderabad to Bengaluru at the time of enquiry.

A woman in Hyderabad, who was previously working in Bengaluru and had come across a social media post of the missing boy, spotted the boy near the Nampally metro station and promptly flagged it to the family and police.

A woman in Hyderabad, who had come across a social media post, spotted the boy near Nampally metro station and flagged it to the family and police

Probe under way

The investigation is still under way to ascertain the reasons for the child going missing. However, the initial investigation revealed that he was caught copying in the class for which his parents were called. But before the parents reached the tutoring centre (Allen Institute in Whitefield), the child had left and had reportedly boarded a BMTC bus from the Marathahalli bridge to Majestic around 3 p.m. on Sunday, based on CCTV footage.

The footage showed Parinav wearing a yellow T-shirt, dark trousers and a backpack.

Since then, social media has been abuzz with posters of the young boy and requests from netizens for information regarding his whereabouts. In a video shared on social media, his mother was seen appealing to him to come back and not be scared of anything. "The child needs special attention from his father. Whenever his father would teach, he secured above 90% marks but if he neglected, he scored zero," Mr. Gunare revealed. Sukesh, his father, is currently working in a software company in Bengaluru and could not be reached.

Investigation is also under way to ascertain how he managed to secure enough money to travel to Hyderabad and sustain himself, as according to the parents, the child did not have any mobile phone or cash on him.

Police in the dock for detaining man illegally in lodge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking a ride from a suspect in a cheating case proved costly for a private firm employee who was allegedly detained by a police team and kept in detention for three days in a lodge for inquiry.

The victim, Venkat, was released after his wife filed a missing complaint with the police, who began to track him down based on the call record details. Venkat soon after the release shared his ordeal and later filed a complaint with the human rights commission seeking legal action.

According to the complaint, Venkat, resident of Konanakunte, had gone to his native place Mulbagal on December 12 and taken a ride with one Mani in his village. Mani was involved in a cheating case and was on the radar of the Cottonpet police, who tracked him down and brought them to the station.

Venkat claimed that he was not aware of the case and told the police this, but they allegedly detained him in a lodge in Cottonpet for three days to question him and to ascertain his possible links with Mani. The police allegedly also made Venkat talk to his wife and threatened not to disclose his whereabouts despite repeated requests.

Suspecting something fishy, Venkat's wife filed a missing complaint and shared the contact details from where she was getting calls.

The police team who detained Venkat are now in the dock as probe has been initiated against them.

Rowdy sheeter hacked to death by armed gang

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An armed gang hacked a rowdy sheeter to death at his house in Mayabazar slum, Viveknagar, in the early hours of Wednesday.

The deceased, Satish, who had multiple criminal cases pending against him, was sleeping in his house when the assailants barged in around 3 a.m. and attacked him with lethal weapons and sped away.

Neighbours rushed to his help, but it was too late.

The Viveknagar police gathered CCTV camera footage to identify the assailants. The police suspect that old rivalry could be the reason behind the murder and efforts are on to trace the accused.

'Andrew Additive' launches SLS printer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Andrew Additive, a start-up that focuses on developing 3D printers for the domestic market, has indigenously developed an industrial SLS printer fully made in India. Selective laser sintering (SLS) printer is an additive manufacturing (AM) technology that uses a high-power laser to sinter small particles of polymer powder into a solid structure based on a 3D model.

The firm, set up in 2022, launched the printer that can print parts in plastics and rubber at IMTEX 2024. It was unveiled by Jyothish Kumar, president, Additive Manufacturing Society of India, and Kavya K., founder chairwomen, Indian Women in 3D Printing.

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The urgent need for data to make personalised medicine equitable

Medical research is biased, meaning some would be helped far more than others by genetically informed personalised medicine; there are problems across the board, ranging from which questions get asked in the first place, to who participates in trials and who gets their genomes sequenced

Manuel Corpas

Warfarin is a powerful blood thinner and a leading drug for cardiovascular disease worldwide. But in South Africa, it is among the top four drug varieties leading to hospitalisation from adverse drug reactions. It's reasonable to suppose that the drug has similar problematic effects farther across sub-Saharan Africa, though the national data needed to show it are lacking.

The fact that warfarin is riskier in some populations than others isn't a surprise. Different geographic regions tend to host people with slightly different genetic makeups, and sometimes those genetic differences lead to radically different reactions to drugs. For certain people, a higher dosage of warfarin is fine; for others, it's dangerous. Researchers have known this for decades.

Focus on one subset

The problem is that the majority of medical research, including genetic research, is still done mainly on one subset of the world's population: men of Northern European origin. This means that negative drug-gene interactions in other, less well-studied populations can fly beneath the radar. In the case of warfarin, one study concluded that using someone's genetic information to help guide their drug dosing would benefit 18% to 24% of people categorised as white, but have no benefit for people identified as Black, Chinese or Japanese.

While that study is a decade old, the general point still holds true: A bias in our current understanding of the genetics of different populations means that some people would be helped far more than others by genetically informed personalised medicine.

As a bioinformatician, I am now focusing my attention on gathering the statistics to show just how biased medical research data are. There are problems across the board, ranging from which research questions get asked in the first place, to who participates in clinical trials, to who gets their genomes sequenced. The world is moving toward "precision medicine," where any individual can have their DNA analysed and that information can be used to help prescribe the right drugs in the right dosages. But this won't work if a person's genetic variants have never been identified or studied in the first place.

Understudied populations

It's astonishing how powerful our genetics can be in mediating medicines. Take the gene *CYP2D6*, which is known to play a vital role in how fast humans metabolise 25% of all the pharmaceuticals on the market. If you have a genetic variant of *CYP2D6* that makes you metabolise drugs more quickly, or less quickly, it can have a huge impact on how well those drugs work and the dangers you face from taking them. Codeine was banned from all of Ethiopia in 2015, for example, because a high proportion of people in the country (perhaps 30%) have a genetic variant of *CYP2D6* that makes them quickly metabolise that drug into morphine, making it more likely to cause respiratory distress and even death.

Researchers have identified over a hundred different *CYP2D6* variants and there are likely many, many more out there that we don't yet know the impacts of - especially in understudied populations.

Dangerous bias: Racial and gender biases in the collection of genome data need fixing, writes a bioinformatician. KNOWABLE MAGAZINE

Back in 2016, researchers published an important article looking at more than 2,500 genome-wide association studies done up to that time. These are studies that scan the genomes of thousands of people to find variants associated with disease traits. What the researchers found was disturbing: While there had been some improvement in diversity since 2009, still 81% of the nearly 35 million samples in those studies came from people of European descent.

Skew in sequencing services

You might expect that, since everyone knows this is a problem, it would have become much better over recent years. It hasn't. In 2021, another study of genome-wide association studies showed that the European-origin proportion had *increased*, not decreased, from 81% to 86%.

It's not just genome-wide studies that have this issue. Direct-to-consumer genetic sequencing services like 23andMe are also skewed: One analysis suggests that 95% of the participants have predicted European ancestry, compared to just 2% African. And in PharmGKB, one of the world's leading databases of drug-gene interactions, 64% of the data come from people of European ancestry, though this group makes up only 16% of the global population. Indigenous Americans account for the smallest amount of the data (just 0.1%). But when taking the global population into account, it is Central and South Asian people who are least well represented, with only 2% of the data but 26% of the global population.

The majority of medical research is still done mainly on one subset of the world's population: men of Northern European origin, meaning that negative drug-gene interactions in other, less well-studied populations can fly beneath the radar

People of African descent have the greatest genetic diversity on the planet (because humanity originated in Africa), and so arguably they deserve the greatest amount of study. But this is hardly the situation. This population makes up just 4% of the PharmGKB dataset, for example.

Geographic ancestry isn't the only factor that's biased. Women make up only 38% of participants in studies of drug effectiveness and pharmacokinetics, for example. Because of gender bias all along the line, women experience adverse drug reactions nearly twice as often as men. And this doesn't even scratch the surface of people with genetic conditions - like my son who has Down syndrome - or other disabilities.

There are some good efforts working to correct these problems. On October 18, 2023, researchers announced plans to create one of the largest-yet databases of genomes exclusively from people with African ancestry. The project aims to recruit at least 500,000 volunteers (for comparison, tens of millions of people globally have had their genomes sequenced to date). This is a great effort; more should follow suit.

Red herrings

Everyone stands to gain from more diverse work. Right now, one clue that researchers use to help determine whether a genetic mutation might be linked to disease (or not) is whether that mutation is rare (or not); if a variant is extremely uncommon, this is one hint that it might be pathogenic (since most people don't have a given disease). But this could be sending researchers chasing after red herrings.

One study published in March 2023, for example, performed whole-genome sequencing on 180 people from 12 indigenous African populations, and found that of 154 mutations labelled "pathogenic" or "likely pathogenic" in a well-known database, 44 were at least five times more frequent in at least one of these African populations. This suggests that those mutations might be benign after all.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 16, 1966, recognises everyone's rights to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress. But that is not happening yet. We need to ramp up representation in genetic and medical studies to ensure fair treatment for all.

(Manuel Corpas is a bioinformatician and genomics lecturer at the University of Westminster in London. He is chief scientist of Cambridge Precision Medicine. This article is republished from Knowable Magazine.*)*

Funding the replacement of cooking stoves with a system that emits less smoke in developing countries can provide carbon credits. AFP

Benefit of replacing cookstoves overestimated, finds study

Agence France-Presse

The greenhouse gas-reducing benefit of replacing highly polluting cookstoves has been overestimated by up to 10-fold, researchers reported on Tuesday.

A peer-reviewed study looked at carbon offset schemes based on getting rid of primitive charcoal – or wood-burning – home stoves used by some 2.4 billion people that contribute to global warming and cause millions of pollution-related deaths every year.

Projects to provide cleaner, more efficient alternatives often raise funds by the sales of credits, which are based on estimates of how much carbon the new cookers keep out of earth's atmosphere – one credit should equal one tonne of carbon dioxide.

The problem, according to the study published in the journal *Nature Sustainability*, is a lack of methodological 'rigour'

The problem, according to the study published in the journal *Nature Sustainability*, is that a lack of methodological "rigour" is causing overestimation. The scientists evaluated five methodologies used to measure emission reductions of the cookstove project system, and found them all wanting. Data covering some 40% of cookstove credits worldwide showed that 26.7 million carbon credits barely avoided a tenth of the CO2 emissions claimed, about 2.9 million tonnes. In carbon markets, one credit corresponded to one tonne of CO2. Extrapolating out across all cookstove projects, the authors estimated credits were overvalued by more than 10-fold.

Carbon credits allow corporations – or countries under certain conditions – to offset greenhouse gas emissions by investing in projects that avoid CO2 emissions, or remove CO2 from the air.

Over-crediting damages the credibility of carbon markets, Annelise Gill-Wiehl, a researcher at the University of California at Berkeley, said. "No one has trust that one carbon credit represents one metric tonne of reduced emissions", she said.

"Whoever is buying the credits is allowed to emit one more tonne of CO2 under the premise that they're not actually emitting it." The research caused a stir in the so-called voluntary carbon market even before it was published when a review draft was widely circulated. Investors, project developers and other industry representatives proactively contacted journalists, urging them not to "exaggerate the exaggerations".

But the researchers insisted their work would help strengthen the trade in carbon offsets. "A carbon credit market built on exaggerations is destined to fail," said co-author Barbara Haya, an expert on offset quality and director of the Berkeley Carbon Trading Project. "Our study offers specific recommendations that could make clean cookstoves a trusted source of quality carbon credits, and carbon credits a stable source of funding for clean cookstoves and all of their benefits for people and forests."

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Carbon-containing compounds

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

Carbon atoms like to link up with other carbon atoms, forming long chains. What is the collective name for these compounds? Examples of compounds composed in this way include DNA, surgical sutures, and currency notes.

QUESTION 2

A national adhering organisation (NAO) of chemistry is an organisation that oversees chemistry education and research in a country. The international federation of all NAOs is the IUPAC, which, among other things, specifies the rules by which scientists name organic compounds. Name India's NAO for chemistry.

QUESTION 3

Aromatic hydrocarbons are hydrocarbons with an alternating pattern of single and double bonds. The most famous example is _____. In 1890, August Kekulé, who first synthesised it, said he figured out its structure after he had a dream in which a snake was eating its own tail. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 4

Name the organic compound whose name according to IUPAC rules is pyridine-3-carboxylic acid. This compound shot to international fame when scientists found in the early 20th century that diets with it prevented a disease called pellagra.

QUESTION 5

One way to classify organic molecules is by their X. Each X is a part, or moiety, of the molecule that determines how the molecule will behave in a chemical reaction. For example, the X in acetic acid – which in dilute form is called vinegar – is acetyl (–COCH3). What is X?

Answers to January 23 quiz:

1. Length of time in the context of the P v. NP problem

– **Ans: Polynomial time**

2. Length of time that increases proportionate to a constant raised to the input size

– **Ans: Exponential time**

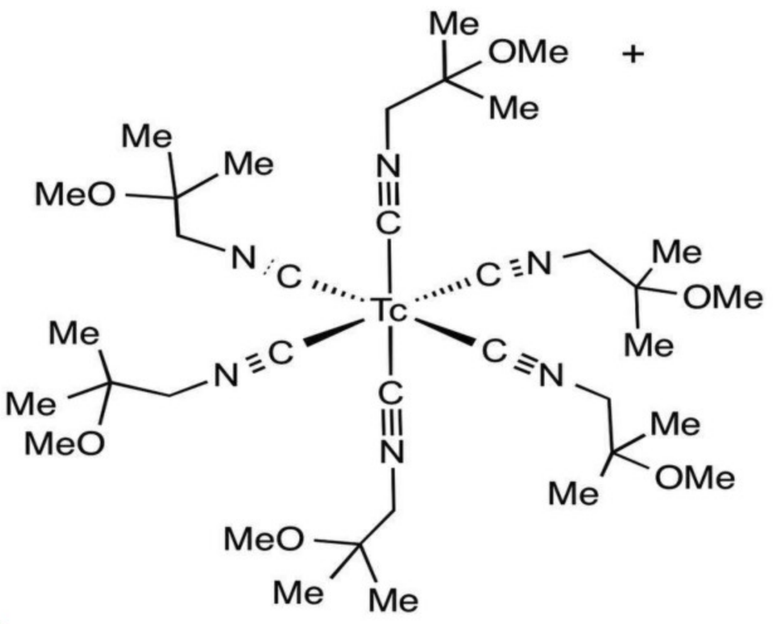
3. Private foundation offering a million dollars to a solution of the P v. NP problem

– **Ans: Clay Mathematics Institute**

4. Encryption algorithm that uses prime factorisation to be difficult to crack – **Ans: RSA**

Visual: John Nash

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Arjesh Jha | Anishar Darnal



Visual: Name this organometallic compound. It's absorbed, among others, by tissue with lots of mitochondria and is thus useful to image heart muscle.
SMOKEFOOT (CC BY-SA 3.0)

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for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

THURSDAY
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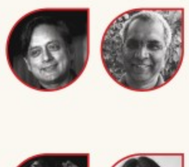
9.30 am
Inauguration

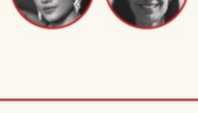
9.50 am
Rich India: Will India Become a Wealthy Nation by 2047?
Jayati Ghosh, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, N. Ravi, Sanjay Kaul and T.N. Ninan in conversation with Raghuvir Srinivasan

11.10 am
Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi I Am An Ordinary Man: India's Struggle for Freedom (1914-1948)
Gopalkrishna Gandhi



12.00 pm
Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle Against the British Maritime Empire
A.R. Venkatachalapathy in conversation with Ramachandra Guha

12.55 pm
Remembering Vivan Sundaram: A Journey Through Images
Ashish Rajadhyaksha



2.20 pm
The Power Couple: The Life and Times of Sudha and Narayana Murthy
Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni in conversation with Shunali Shroff

3.15 pm
Recalling Habib Tanvir: Excerpts from the Film and a Talk
Sudhanva Deshpande

4.10 pm
Bahubali: Insights into Jainism
Devdutt Pattanaik

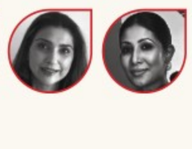
4.55 pm
Food Against Fanaticism
Subodh Kerkar

5.45 pm
Wizard of Words
Shashi Tharoor in conversation with David Davidar

6.50 pm
Imaging Women Nationalists: Serving the Nation State
Anita Ratnam and Shovana Narayan in conversation with Shalin Maria Lawrence

7.55 pm
The Sporting Heroine
Taapsee Pannu in conversation with Vidya Singh

9.45 am
Faultlines of Faith
Arjun Appadurai, Revati Laul, and Ziya us Salam in conversation with Varghese K. George



10.50 am
Memory and Home: Home and Life in Exile
Ronya Othmann in conversation with Katharina Gorgen

11.45 am
Finding the Song in Sangam Poetry
T.M. Krishna and Perumal Murugan in conversation (Bilingual)

12.40 pm
The Inner Workings of Power
Neerja Chowdhury in conversation with Ramya Kannan

2.10 pm
May I Have Your Attention Please?: How to Hold an Audience
Anuradha Menon, Cyrus Broacha, and Kanan Gill in conversation with Suresh Balakrishna

3.15 pm
The Maverick Politician
Mani Shankar Aiyar in conversation with Chandan Gowda

4.10 pm
Breakup: A Marriage in Wartime
Anjan Sundaram in conversation with Stanly Johny

5.15 pm
Breaking Form to Build Narrative: An Experiment with Translation
Charu Nivedita and Nandini Krishnan in conversation (Bilingual)

6.00 pm
Too Woke To Be Funny
Kiran Manral and Shunali Shroff in conversation with Rosella Stephen

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FRIDAY, JAN. 26	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:18
RISE 18:55	SET 07:14
SATURDAY, JAN. 27	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:18
RISE 19:44	SET 07:55

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	22
Mysuru	32	22
Bengaluru	30	16

Bengaluru Today
31°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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Temporary suspension of metro services on Green Line stretch from tomorrow

There will be no service between Peenya Industry and Nagasandra for three days, says BMRCL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Namma Metro services on the Green Line between Peenya Industry and Nagasandra will be suspended for three days from January 26 to 28 due to commissioning of works on the extension line beyond Nagasandra to Madavara.

A release from the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) stated that metro train services will be available only between Peenya Industry and Silk Institute on these days.

"Normal services on the Green Line from Nagasandra to Silk Institute metro stations will resume on the morning of January 29 at 5 a.m. However, on the Purple Line, there will be no change in the train services between Whitefield and Challaghatta metro stations and trains will run as per schedule," it said.

BMRCL said metro services will be available only between Peenya Industry and Silk Institute from January 26 to 28. K. MURALI KUMAR

The BMRCL has advised the public to buy QR tickets through WhatsApp or Namma Metro and other apps to save time as more crowds are expected at Peenya Industry and Goraguntepalya metro stations.

Meanwhile, on December 29, 2023, BMRCL reported that the Bengaluru metro surpassed the 100-crore mark for the first time. As per data provided in BMRCL's newsletter, an average of 7,48,152 passengers utilised metro services daily as of December 2023. The daily revenue has seen a significant increase, rising from ₹3.8 lakh to ₹1.5 crore during this period. As of December 2023, 51.54% of users opt for smartcards, 33.86% use tokens, and 14.6% prefer QR tickets.

Following the operationalisation of the extended Purple Line, Namma Metro has experienced a notable increase of passengers in its daily ridership, according to BMRCL officials. The Namma Metro network now spans 73.81 km with 66 metro stations. It is now the second-largest metro system in India after Delhi (350.2 km in length).

In view of the Flower Show at Lalbagh, Namma Metro will introduce return journey paper tickets (from Lalbagh) on Friday, Republic Day, for the convenience of the public.

The metro fares from Lalbagh metro station to any metro station on this day shall be flat ₹30 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The paper ticket is valid for the day of purchase only and will be available for purchase on January 26 at all the metro stations from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Group of Schools, Chennai

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public and in particular parents seeking admission for their child into PSBB Group of Schools are hereby informed that the school does not demand or accept donations for securing admissions into the school.

No unauthorised monies for admission by subterfuge or otherwise is collected by the school under any circumstances. No person or agent has been authorised to solicit on behalf of the school in this regard.

There apparently, are some persons who promise admissions and are collecting money from people seeking admission of children into the school.

In your anxiety to get your child admitted into the school do not fall prey to such unscrupulous touts or persons known to you or otherwise claiming themselves to be close friends or relatives wielding influence with the school Management or Heads of Schools or ex-staff members, etc.

You are kindly advised not to be misinformed, misled, misguided or be misused by such persons and become susceptible to false promises of guaranteeing admissions on payment of money under any pretext. Be advised not to pay to such dubious characters and get cheated.

Kindly note that the school does not entertain such unethical and illegal practices and the school shall not be responsible or accountable for any such payments made.

Management
Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Group of Schools

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

Attention: All Govt/Private Mental Health Establishments and Professionals! Register Online.

Department of Health and Family Welfare

NOTIFICATION
Mandatory Registration
OF MENTAL HEALTH ESTABLISHMENTS AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS UNDER THE MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACT 2017

According to Sec 65(1) of the Mental Health Care Act 2017, "No Person or organization shall establish or run a mental health establishment unless it has been registered with the Authority under the provisions of this Act"

Government and Private Mental Health Establishments/De-addiction Centers/ Rehabilitation Centers and Mental health professionals are required to register through link
https://e-manas.karnataka.gov.in/mhms_mhd/#/

Penalties for Non-Registration in violation of the Mental Health Care Act 2017

Mental Health Establishments	
1st Penalty	Rs.5,000/-(min) to Rs.50,000/-
2nd Penalty	Rs.50,000/- (min) to Rs.2,00,000/-
3rd Penalty	Rs.2,00,000/-(min) to Rs.5,00,000/-

Mental Health Professionals serving in non-registered mental health Establishments shall be liable for a penalty of up to **Rs. 25,000/-**

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, Karnataka State Mental Health Authority & Commissioner, Health & Family Welfare Services, Bangaluru

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister of Karnataka

KARNATAKA STATE
MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
Health & Family Welfare Dept.

Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor,
1st Cross, Magadi Road,
Bengaluru-560023.

ksmha@karnataka.gov.in
ksmha1gmail.com
Tel: 080-2955040
www.ksmha.co.in

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*Fare shown is for travel in Economy Class on Singapore Airlines flights from Bengaluru to Sydney and includes all associated taxes and surcharges. Special fares to other Australian cities are available. Promotion is on from now till 19 February 2024 for travel from 1 April to 30 September 2024. Actual fare may vary between cities in India and due to currency fluctuations. Limited seats are available at the advertised fare. Other terms and conditions apply.

ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ
TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE
KIND ATTENTION : VEHICLE OWNERS

As per the Government of Karnataka Notification No.TD 193 TDO 2021, Dated : **17-08-2023** and Circular No.CT/RGN-1/PR-434/ 2022-23, Dated : **18-08-2023** issued by the Commissioner for Transport and Road Safety, Bangalore, affixation of HIGH SECURITY REGISTRATION PLATES (HSRP) is mandatory on all vehicles (Two & Three wheelers, Light Motor Vehicles, Passenger Cars, Medium & Heavy Commercial Vehicles, Trailer, Tractor etc.,) in the State of Karnataka registered (old / existing vehicles) prior to 1st April 2019.

IND KA 00 G 0000

PROCESS FLOW FOR AFFIXATION OF HSRP ON OLD VEHICLES

- **Visit https://transport.karnataka.gov.in** OR **www.siam.in** and click on Book HSRP.
- Select your vehicle manufacturer.
- Fill basic vehicle details.
- Select dealer location as per your convenience for affixation of HSRP.
- Pay HSRP fee online. No payment to be made in cash.
- An OTP will be sent to the mobile of vehicle owner.
- Choose date and time of affixation as per your convenience.
- For affixation of HSRP, opt for office premises/home location as convenient to you.
- Visit any of your vehicle manufacturer/dealer.

IMPORTANT POINTS

- Book your HSRP only through **https://transport.karnataka.gov.in** OR **www.siam.in**
- Don't affix imitation HSRP/look alike plates/smart number plates such as with fake hologram/IND mark/INDIA inscribed or engraved from any open market/road side vendors. Those are not HSRP. (High Security Registration Plates).
- No transaction in RTO office such as change of ownership, address, HPA/HPT, fitness etc will be permitted without the affixation of HSRP.
- No fine for vehicles presenting valid HSRP receipt upto **30 days from the appointment date**.
- The time limit which was fixed upto **17-11-2023** for fitment of HSRP has been extended upto **17-02-2024** vide Government Notification No. TD 193 TDO 2021, Dated **16-11-2023.**
- Public can call the below helpline number if they face any problem to get HSRP through online, during office working hours from **10.00** am to **05.30** pm.

As enshrined in our Constitution, - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Contact : 94498 63429/94498 63426

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Decrease in India's coffee exports in 2023 due to fall in shipment

5.4 in percentage. Coffee shipments from India declined to 3.77 lakh tonne in 2023 due to a fall in the shipment of Robusta coffee, according to the Coffee Board of India. PTI

Penalty imposed on Air India by DGCA for safety violations

1.1 in ₹ crore. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) imposed a penalty as it got a complaint alleging that Air India operated Boeing 777 planes without having the required emergency oxygen supply. PTI

Govt. approves fund for scheme on coal gasification projects

8,500 in ₹ crore. The adoption of gasification technology in India is expected to reduce the country's reliance on imports of natural gas, methanol, and other products. PTI

Delhi's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI)

400 AQI levels crossed the 400 mark (stage 3- "severe") on Wednesday, a level requiring authorities to invoke stricter curbs through the Graded Response Action Plan. PTI

The new subscriptions for Netflix in the fourth quarter of 2023

13 in million. Netflix registered its third consecutive quarter of accelerating subscriber growth in the final three months of 2023, closing out a comeback year. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Reconsidering the free movement regime

Why did Home Minister Amit Shah promise to fence the 1,643 km India-Myanmar border? Are there historical ties between people on either side of the border? Why was the FMR initially introduced? Why is the Manipur government opposed to the FMR?

EXPLAINER

Rahul Karmakar

The story so far:

At a passing out parade of the Assam police commandos in Guwahati on January 20, Home Minister Amit Shah said the 1,643 km India-Myanmar border would soon be fenced. He also said the Free Movement Regime (FMR) agreement with Myanmar would be reconsidered to stop border residents from moving into each other's country without any paperwork.

What is the FMR?

Much of India's present-day northeast was temporarily under Burmese occupation until the British pushed them out in the 1800s. The victors and the vanquished signed the Treaty of Yandaboo in 1826, leading to the current alignment of the boundary between India and Burma, later renamed Myanmar. The border divided people of the same ethnicity and culture – specifically the Nagas of Nagaland and Manipur and the Kuki-Chin-Mizo communities of Manipur and Mizoram – without their consent. In some stretches, the border split a village or a house between the two countries. Wary of increasing Chinese influence in Myanmar, New Delhi began working on improving diplomatic ties with the Myanmar government a decade ago. After almost a year's delay, the FMR came about in 2018 as part of the Narendra Modi government's Act East policy. The Rohingya refugee crisis that began in August 2017 caused the delay. The FMR allows people living on either side of the border to travel up to 16 km inside each other's country without a visa. A border resident needs to have a border pass, valid for a year, to stay in the other country for about two weeks per visit. The FMR also envisaged the promotion of localised border trade through customs stations and designated markets apart from helping the people of Myanmar access better education and healthcare facilities on the Indian side of the border.

Crossing lines: A border pillar on the Indo-Myanmar international border in Moreh, Manipur. FILE PHOTO

Why is the FMR being reconsidered?

Apart from a 10 km stretch in Manipur, the India-Myanmar border through hills and jungles is unfenced. The security forces have for decades grappled with members of extremist groups carrying out hit-and-run operations from their clandestine bases in the Chin and Sagaing regions of Myanmar. The ease of cross-border movement, even before the FMR was in place, was often flagged for inward trafficking of drugs and outward trafficking of wildlife body parts. The trigger for the rethink on the FMR was the conflict that broke out between the majority Meitei and the tribal Kuki-Zo communities in Manipur on May 3, 2023. Over the past decade, the Manipur government has been expressing concern over the "influx" of Myanmar nationals, a euphemism for Kuki-Chins, calling for an Assam-like National Register of Citizens to weed out the "illegal immigrants". The theory gained currency after the conflict, which coincided with a few hundred Myanmar nationals taking refuge in Manipur to escape a civil war back home. In September 2023, Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh blamed the ethnic violence on the free movement of Myanmar nationals into India and urged the Ministry of Home Affairs to end the FMR, which had been suspended on April 1, 2020, during the COVID-19 lockdown. The suspension was extended after the military coup in Myanmar in February 2021. Kuki-Zo organisations, on the other hand, have accused the Chief Minister of branding the community as "illegal immigrants" and "narco-terrorists" to justify their "ethnic cleansing".

What is the scale of migration?

The civil war in Myanmar saw a drastic jump in the number of people seeking refuge in India. In September 2022, authorities in Manipur pushed back 4,300 of some 5,500 Myanmar nationals from the Moreh area along the border after recording their biometrics. A committee set up by the State government put the number of such migrants in 2023 at 2,187. The civil war in the neighbouring country also forced some 40,000 people into Mizoram, who, unlike Manipur, made them feel at home primarily due to their ethnic affiliation. The Mizoram government has been seeking funds from the Centre to look after the displaced people who it wants to be sent back only after the situation in their country normalises.

Why are Mizoram and Nagaland opposed to ending the FMR?

Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma said his government does not have the authority to stop the Centre from fencing the India-Myanmar border for perceived security threat and scrapping the FMR, but said he was opposed to the move. According to him, the border was imposed by the British to divide the people belonging to the Zo ethnic stock. "We Mizos share ethnic ties with the Chin people across the border. We have the right to live together," he said. The Nagaland government, in which the BJP is a stakeholder, has not reacted but the influential Naga Students' Federation condemned the Centre's move. It said the decision to fence the border and end the FMR was "regressive", which would exacerbate conflicts in the region. "It is crucial for India to acknowledge the historical truth that these territories (between the Chindwin River in Myanmar and the Saramati mountain in Nagaland) belong to the Nagas," the federation said in a statement.

THE GIST

- Home Minister Amit Shah said the Free Movement Regime (FMR) agreement with Myanmar would be reconsidered to stop border residents from moving into each other's country without any paperwork.
- In September 2023, Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh blamed the ethnic violence on the free movement of Myanmar nationals into India and urged the Ministry of Home Affairs to end the FMR.
- The border divides people of the same ethnicity and culture — specifically the Nagas of Nagaland and Manipur and the Kuki-Chin-Mizo communities of Manipur and Mizoram — without their consent.

An overview of the fourth national elections of Bhutan

How does the electoral and political system work in Bhutan? What were the party campaigns about? What were the key issues?

Akriti Sharma

The story so far:

On January 10, the Election Commission of Bhutan (ECB) declared the People's Democratic Party (PDP), the ruling party with 30 out of 47 seats in the fourth national assembly elections. The Bhutan Tendrel Party (BTP) became the opposition party with 17 seats.

What is electoral system of Bhutan?

In 2008, Bhutan converted from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary government. The King of Bhutan is the head of the state whereas the Prime Minister is the head of the government. Since 2008, Bhutan has conducted four elections. The Parliament of Bhutan consists of the King of Bhutan, the National Council (upper house), and the National Assembly (lower house). The elections to the National Assembly are a two-tier system consisting of a primary round and then general elections. All registered parties contest in the primary round of elections and the top two voted parties contest the general elections to decide the ruling party and the opposition party. While in the primary round of elections, all five registered parties of Bhutan contested, PDP and BTP secured the most votes of 42.53% and 19.58 % respectively.

What were campaigns of the parties?

The PDP, a liberal party, emerged as the winner with a landslide victory. The party's campaign revolved around economic recovery, developing infrastructure, and boosting the private sector. More action-oriented goals were a prominent factor in winning the vote.

The BTP, which is a new entrant in the electoral race, became the opposition party in its first term. Its campaigns focused on "a vibrant and prosperous Bhutan" through a robust private sector, effective governance, strengthening local governance, and establishing the Bhutan Idea and Innovation Bank.

What were the key issues?

The country's Gross National Happiness (GNH) was the central theme of all elections so far. However, the economy was the major driving force of the fourth round of elections. The average economic growth in the past five years stood at 1.6%. According to the National Statistics Bureau (NSB), the youth unemployment rate in 2022 was 28.6%. The private sector has been stagnant since the pandemic, and the tourism sector has also witnessed a downfall. According to the Ministry of Finance, the total debt of Bhutan was 124.5% of its GDP as of September 2022. The foreign reserves of Bhutan have also been declining and are close to going below the constitutional limit. In 2023, the reserves declined to $689 million, sufficient only for 14 months of essential imports. The constitution mandates reserves for at least 12 months of imports. Second, there were demographic challenges. Mass migration has been sharply increasing leading to a shortage of manpower. The exodus of high-skilled people to other countries for better educational and job opportunities has affected the delivery of public services domestically. Additionally, fertility rates have been declining.

The elections also witnessed a decline in voter turnout. In the 2018 elections, the turnout for the primary round and general elections stood at 66.36% and 71.46% as compared to 63% and 65.6% in 2023-24.

What next for Bhutan?

With a caretaker government in place and a few challenges, the fourth round of elections conducted in Bhutan exhibited a smooth transition to democracy. PDP being one of the oldest parties has been trusted again for stabilising the economy for a better and prosperous Bhutan. In the 2013 elections, the PDP won and took over a weak economy that grappled with soaring inflation, frozen credit, import bans, and minimal business activity. The party was successful in increasing GDP and foreign reserves. With the slogan "For a Better Druk Yul [For a better Bhutan]" PDP, President Tshering Tobgay is set to be the Prime Minister of Bhutan for the second time.

Akriti Sharma is a doctoral scholar at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, IISc Campus Bengaluru.

THE GIST

- On January 10, the Election Commission of Bhutan (ECB) declared the People's Democratic Party (PDP), the ruling party with 30 out of 47 seats in the fourth national assembly elections.
- The elections to the National Assembly of Bhutan are a two-tier system consisting of a primary round and then general elections.
- The PDP, a liberal party, emerged as the winner with a landslide victory. The party's campaign revolved around economic recovery, developing infrastructure, and boosting the private sector.

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Day 2 - January 27, 2024

SIR MUTHA CONCERT HALL

10.00 am
The Power of Idol Worship
Amish and Bhavna Roy in conversation with Anita Ratnam

10.55 am
Let's Talk Money: Making Your Money Work For You
Monika Halan in conversation with Aarathi Krishnan

11.55 am
The Cooking of Books
Ramachandra Guha in conversation with Nirmala Lakshman

12.50 pm
Journey to India Modern
Tarun Tahiliani in conversation with Rosella Stephen

2.25 pm
Beyond the Kitchen: Chefs Forging a Fresh Culinary Landscape
Chef Manu Chandra, Chef Sashi Cheliah, Chef Thomas Zacharias in conversation with Shonali Muthalaly

3.30 pm
A Viral World: Countering Fake News
Sreenivasan Jain, N. Ram and Pratik Sinha in conversation with Ziya us Salam

4.40 pm
India's Last High Commissioner to Pakistan: The Inside Story
Ajay Bisaria in conversation with Varghese K. George

5.35 pm
The Body Politic
Pushpamala N

6.25 pm
Democracy Fatigue: Why is the World Moving Towards the Right?
Arjun Appadurai

7.10 pm
Transformative Leadership in ISRO: My Experience
S. Somanath

THE HINDU PAVILION
(Next to Sir Mutha Concert Hall)

10.00 am
Some Truths About Pain and Suffering
Shweta Singh Kirti in conversation with Chitra Mahesh

10.55 am
A Crime Wave
Anuja Chauhan, Harini Nagendra, Kiran Manral and Tarun Mehrishi in conversation with K.C. Vijaya Kumar

12.00 pm
The World of Storyteller: The Power of Rooted Fiction
Tejaswini Apte-Rahm and Abdullah Khan in conversation with Nandini Krishnan

12.55 pm
A Taste of Memory: A Celebration of Food and Family
Tarana Husain Khan and Rakesh Raghunathan in conversation with Deepa S. Reddy

2.30 pm
Acts of God
Kanan Gill in conversation with Anuradha Menon

3.25 pm
Double Distilled Fiction
Daisy Rockwell in conversation with K. Srilata

4.20 pm
Dalit History: Text and Context Reading and Reconstructing Dalit History through Dalit Non-Fiction
Stalin Rajangam in conversation with G. Gurusamy (Tamil)

5.15 pm
Another India: Events, Memories People
Chandan Gowda in conversation with Suresh Seshadri

6.10 pm
Narratives of the Oppressed: Voices of Assertion
Perumal Murugan and Azhagiya Periyavan in conversation (Tamil)

Scan and register to participate or visit newsth.live/Litfest2024

THE HINDU

26th & 27th January 2024
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BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal)

BESCOM invites tender for the following **Enquiry No.BESCOM /2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT98** For "Preventive and Breakdown maintenance of all makes of DAS and Non DAS RMUs of all configurations in West Circle area of BESCOM for a period of two years on total turnkey basis" Bid documents available on **25.01.2024** onwards. Last Date for Bid submission on **14.02.2024** at **15:00** hrs. Opening of Bid Document on **15.02.2024** at **15:15** hrs. The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP portal. Bidders can take assistance with KPP helpdesk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.

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Sd/-
General Manager (Ele.,)
Procurement, BESCOM

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
PROJECTS DIVISION
MSIL House, # 36, Cunningham Road,
Bengaluru - 560 052. Ph:080-22264021-25
No.MSIL/PRJ/283/2023-24 Dated: 25.01.2024

SHORT-TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement portal)

Short-term Tender is invited from the interested parties for **Leasing or Renting out office space of 4080 Sq.ft at Khivraj Complex, Annasalai Chennai belonging to Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL), Karnataka.** Interested parties are requested to contact the undersigned for further details. Visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for more details.

Sd/- General Manager, Projects Division

Government of Karnataka
(DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION)
Office of the Managing Director,
Karnataka Text Book Society(R)
6th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003. Helpline:9448442463
Notification: A8/KTBS/ADM/OTEN/2/2023 E-15960 Date:24.01.2024
(Tender No.: KTBS/2023-24/SE0002)

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement)

Tender is called to **provide the services of Computer Programmer, Accounts & Audit Co-ordinator, Accounts Assistant, Data Entry Operators, Multi Task Assistants, Car Driver, House Keeping Staff & Watchmen to Karnataka Text Book Society (R) Bengaluru**, for the period of two years Eligible agencies may offer their quotes till **02.02.2024 up to 5.30 P.M.** Details of the tender are furnished in the tender document provided in e-Portal. The detailed tender document may be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, https:www.ktbs.kar.nic.in** E-Portal helpline: 080-46010000/080-68948777

Sd/- Managing Director,
Karnataka Textbook Society (R) Bengaluru

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forest,
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Annex-3 Building,
N.R Square, Bengaluru - 560 002
No: DCF/PR/65/2023-24 **Date: 24.01.2024**

CORRIGENDUM

Sub: Regarding cancellation of Tender invited by this office.
Ref: This office Notification No: DCF/Tender/PR/ 10/2023-24 dated: 19.01.2024
(Published on 20.01.2024 in The Hindu and Vijayavani)

With reference to the above subject, the tender was invited as per reference (1) through e-Procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ by the Deputy Conservator of Forest of BBMP for 02 Tender works, Due to technical reasons the one tender work i.e Providing Circular Shaped Metal Tree Guards, Tender Indent No:1373. is cancelled. The cancelled tender will be invited in fresh mode and the notification will be posted. **Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forest, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bengaluru**

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 26096888, e-mail :engg@kmf.coop

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/TUMUL_MEGA_DAIRY/ETP_WORKS/2023-24 Date: 23-01-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM]
(Through KP Procurement Portal)

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bengaluru invites tenders from the eligible ETP Turnkey contractors/ suppliers / manufacturers & any other eligible companies who have executed similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail: hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com, support@eprochelpdesk.com and helpline no. +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777, 080-22230960, 080-22234115

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Tender Quantity	EMD (Rs.)
1	Design, Fabrication, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning Of ETP System Equipments, Machineries Including Piping, Electrial Etc. along with Carrying Out The Civil Works For Establishment Of 10 LLPD Capacity Effluent Treatment Plant On Turnkey Basis For New Mega Dairy At Tumakuru For TUMUL.	1 Job	19,00,000/-

Completion Period : 10 Months

1.Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated 25-01-2024 to 24-02-2024 up to 4-00 pm. 2)Pre Bid Meeting on date: 05-02-2024 at 12.00 pm. 3) Last date for Tender submission on date: 24-02-2024 up to 4.00 pm. 4)Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 26-02-2024 at 4.30 pm.

Any Modifications / changes in the Bid Document / Tender Specification / Tender Schedule will be uploaded in KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Only.

For Karnataka Co-Op. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/- Director [Engineering]-1

समुद्री उत्पाद निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण
THE MARINE PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India)
एमपीईडीए हाउस, पनम्पिल्ली एवेन्यू,
MPEDA House, Panampilly Avenue
कोच्चि/ Kochi- 682 036, केरल/ Kerala.
(दूरभाष / Tel: 0484- 2311901) ईमेल / Email: ho@mpeda.gov.in
वेबसाइट / Website: www.mpeda.gov.in

सेवानिवृत्त सरकारी कर्मचारी
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Retired Government Servant
as Consultant - IT-related support in MPEDA

एमपीईडीए ठेका आधार पर सेवानिवृत्त सरकारी कर्मचारियों से सलाहकार (आईटी-संबंधित सहायता) के रूप में आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है। अधिक जानकारी के लिए, कृपया एमपीईडीए की वेबसाइट: www.mpeda.gov.in [अधिसूचना-अवसर- प्रारंभिक सूची] पर जाएं।

आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि 05.02.2024 है।

MPEDA invites applications from **Retired Government Servants as Consultant (IT-related Support)** on a contract basis. For more details, please visit MPEDA website: www.mpeda.gov.in [Notification-Opportunities-Opening List].

The last date of application is 05.02.2024

हस्ता / Sd/-
सचिव / SECRETARY

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Executive Engineer,PRE Division
Jawahar Road Koppal 583231 ,Karnataka .
Email: eepredkpl@gmail.com,
No:EE:PRED:DN:KPL:/DB/TENDER/2023-24 /2304
Date: 23.01.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Koppal, invites item rates tender through e-procurement in one & two cover systems, Standard Bid Document **KW-1,2,3 & 4** under head of account **2022-23 –Vivek yojane, 2022-23, KKRDB** of different talukas of Koppal district PWD and PRE Department from eligible registered contractors . This scheme is fully funded by the Government of Karnataka . For more information contact above the office. Eligible contractors participate online by entering into eprocurement portal. **http// kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal**

General instructions:- 1.Contractors participate in all tenders online only. 2.Pre-qualification documents should be uploaded by scanning all certificates & other concerned documents online only. 3.Pre-requisite EMD have to be pay online as per mentioned in eproc-portal.

For more information, contractors need to consult to below signed official, officer, contractors may get the information by going through. **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.** This notified works can be **downloaded** in **http// kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal** from **dated 25.01.2024**

Tender Processing Fees: As per E-Procurement. **Download of Schedule-B in Eproc Portal:** From 25.01.2024 time after 10.00 AM upto 06.02.2024 time 16.00 Hours. **Tender Receipt last dates:** From 25.01.2024 ,time 11.00 AM upto 06.02.2024 Time 16.30 hrs. **Technical Bid open date and time (Both Technical & Financial bids are opened as same date for KW 1 & KW 2 ,KW-3 works):** 07.02.2024 in office hours. **Financial Bid open date and time:** For KW 4 After getting Technical approval from competent authority, bid will be opened

Sd/-Executive Engineer, PRE Division Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/354/KSMCA/2023-24

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No:CEE/TZ/HSN/SEE(O)/AE-2/2023-24/20538-48 Date:23.01.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

KPTCL invites bids through KPP Portal mode for **Supply of C-Type Wedge Connectors for Various sizes required for replacement of age old bolted type connectors in TL&SS Divisions of Hassan Transmission Zone,** Conforming to our Technical Specifications. F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including insurance and transportation.

Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/TZH/C-wedge/365
Indent No:KPTCL/2023-24/IND0056

The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the KPP Portal can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **29.01.2024.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy.,
Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana,
Santhepete, B.M.Road, Hassan-573 201.

TUNGABHADRA BOARD: TB DAM
e-Procurement Short & Long Term Tender Notice IFB
Nos. 121/2023-24 to 131/2023-24 Dt.23.01.2024, 69/2023-24 to 73/2023-24 Dt.31.05.2023 (2nd Call), 83/2023-24 Dt.12.06.2023 (2nd Call), 88/2023-24, 91/2023-24, 92/2023-24 Dt.12.06.2023 (3rd Call), 109/2023-24 to 114/2023-24 Dt.15.07.2023 (2nd Call) & 55/2023-24 Dt.31.05.2023 (4th Call)

Tender for total 27 Nos. of Works in respect of & HW & HLC Division, TB Dam and LLC Division, Ballari under Works category are invited through **'e-Procurement'**

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time:	**25.01.2024 at 11:00 AM**
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time : (IFB Nos.121/2023-24 to 131/2023-24 Dt.23.01.2024, 69/2023-24 to 73/2023-24 Dt.31.05.2023 (2nd Call), 83/2023-24 Dt.12.06.2023 (2nd Call), 88/2023-24, 91/2023-24, 92/2023-24 Dt.12.06.2023 (3rd Call), 109/2023-24 to 114/2023-24 Dt.15.07.2023 (2nd Call) & 55/2023-24 Dt.31.05.2023 (4th Call)	**02.02.2024 at 3:00 PM**
Bid Submission End Date & Time : (IFB Nos.121/2023-24 to 131/2023-24 Dt.23.01.2024, 69/2023-24 to 73/2023-24 Dt.31.05.2023 (2nd Call), 83/2023-24 Dt.12.06.2023 (2nd Call), 88/2023-24, 91/2023-24, 92/2023-24 Dt.12.06.2023 (3rd Call), 109/2023-24 to 114/2023-24 Dt.15.07.2023 (2nd Call) & 55/2023-24 Dt.31.05.2023 (4th Call))	**02.02.2024 at 5:30 PM**
Date of opening of Commercial Stage: (IFB Nos.123, 124, 126 to 129, 83 (3rd Call))	**03.02.2024 at 11:00 AM**
Date of opening of PQ Stage: (IFB Nos.121,125,131,69 to 73 (2nd Call), 88,91 & 92 (3rd Call), 112 to 114 (2nd Call)	**03.02.2024 at 11:00 AM**
Date of opening of Commercial Stage*: (IFB Nos.121,125,131,69 to 73 (2nd Call), 88,91 & 92 (3rd Call), 112 to 114 (2nd Call))	**06.02.2024 at 11:00 AM**
Date of opening of TQ Stage: (IFB Nos.121,125,131,69 to 73 (2nd Call), 88,91 & 92 (3rd Call), 112 to 114 (2nd Call))	**06.02.2024 at 3:00 PM**
Date of opening of PQ Stage: (IFB Nos.122,130, 109 to 111(2nd Call) & 55(4th Call))	**03.02.2024 at 11:00 AM**
Date of opening of Commercial Stage: (IFB Nos.122,130, 109 to 111(2nd Call) & 55(4th Call))	**06.02.2024 at 11:00 AM**

Further details can be seen @ **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**
* Commencement of Reverse Tendering

Ph: 08394 - 259114
Fax 08394 - 259167

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer**
I.B, TB Board, TB Dam

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: B31/SE(IT)/EE (IT-1)/45452/2023-24 Dated: 24.01.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

KPTCL invites bid for "Digitization of documents using microfiche technology for various offices at Corporate Office of KPTCL". The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The detailed notification regarding the enquiry can be obtained by logging onto KPTCL website https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in on the hyperlink 'e procurement KPTCL' or to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 25.01.2024, 5.00 PM. Other details can be obtained from the office of the under signed.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer Ele., IT
KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-560009.

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 26096888, e-mail :engg@kmf.coop

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/HAVEMUL_MEGA_DAIRY/ETP_WORKS_CALL2/2023-24 Date: 24-01-2024

SHORT TERM RETENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM]
(Through KP Procurement Portal)

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bengaluru invites tenders from the eligible ETP Turnkey contractors/ suppliers / manufacturers & any other eligible companies who have executed similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail: hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com, support@eprochelpdesk.com and helpline no. +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777, 080-22230960, 080-22234115

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Tender Quantity	EMD (Rs.)
1	Design, Fabrication, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning Of ETP System Equipments, Machineries including Piping, Electrial Etc. along with Carrying Out The Civil Works For Establishment Of 1 LLPD Capacity Effluent Treatment Plant On Turnkey Basis For New Mega Dairy At Arabagonda Village, Byadagi Taluk, Haveri District For HAVEMUL–CALL2	1 Job	4,50,000/-

Completion Period : 8 Months

1)Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated 25-01-2024 to 05-02-2024 up to 4-00 pm. 2) Pre Bid Meeting on date: 30-01-2024 at 12.00 pm. 3) Last date for Tender submission on date: 05-02-2024 up to 4.00 pm. 4)Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 06-02-2024 at 4.30 pm.

Any Modifications / changes in the Bid Document / Tender Specification / Tender Schedule will be uploaded in KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Only.

For Karnataka Co-Op. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/- Director [Engineering]-1

TAMIL NADU FIBRENET CORPORATION LIMITED (TANFINET)
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)
Door.No.807, 5th Floor, P.T.Lee Chengalvaraya Naicker Trust,
Anna Salai, Chennai - 600002. Phone No. 044-28888230

Advertisement

TANFINET Corporation, State Implementing Agency (SIA) for BharatNet Phase-II Project in Tamil Nadu, requires qualified & experienced candidate for the posts as mentioned below on Contract basis (purely temporary).

S. No	Name of Posts	Remuneration per month (in Rs.) (Consolidated Pay)	No of Post
1.	General Manager (Marketing)	Rs.1,00,000/- to Rs.2,00,000/-	1
2.	Deputy Manager (Marketing)	Rs.40,000/- to Rs.60,000/-	1
3.	Chief Operating Officer (COO)	Rs.1,00,000/- to Rs.1,50,000/-	1
4.	Principal Consultant & Chief Technology Officer	Rs.1,00,000/- to Rs.2,00,000/-	1
5.	Manager (Internet Services)	Rs.50,000/- to Rs.80,000/-	1
6.	Consultant (GPON)	Rs.75,000/- to Rs.1,50,000/-	1
7.	Consultant (Network Planning)	Rs.75,000 to Rs.1,50,000/-	1
8.	Junior Executive	Rs.25,000/- to Rs.30,000/-	3
9.	Consultant/ Routing Manager - IP /MPLS	Salary will be commensurate with the experience	1
10.	Associate Consultant (BSS/ Helpdesk)	Salary will be commensurate with the experience	1
11.	Associate Consultant (OSS)	Salary will be commensurate with the experience	1
12.	Associate Consultant (OFC & RoW)	Salary will be commensurate with the experience	1

General Information:

1. For details regarding qualification, experience, general conditions, prescribed application formats etc., please refer detailed notification available in Tamil Nadu Government website **www.tn.gov.in**
2. Candidates who conform to the job requirements as given in the notification may apply in the prescribed format by post in strict confidence superscribing the name of the post on the top of the Envelope on or before 5.45 P.M of 23.02.2024 to:

The Managing Director,
Tamil Nadu FibreNet Corporation Limited,
Door.No.807, 5th Floor, P.T.Lee Chengalvaraya Naicker Trust,
Anna Salai, Chennai - 600002.

Applicants shall enclose the self-attested documentary proof(s) for Date of Birth, Community, Educational Qualifications, Class & Percentage of Marks, Experience, Last Salary drawn, ID & Address Proofs as prescribed by the Government etc., along with the application form. Application form with insufficient documentary proof will be summarily rejected.

DIPR/ 78 /Display/2024

KALABURAGI MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Fax No.08472/260776, Phone: 08472/ 278675, Email Id: itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No.KMP/HS/SWM/2023-24 Date : 23.01.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub : Kalaburagi City Corporation under General Fund have called the below Tendersin KPPP portal.

Work Details : 1) Estimation for Supply of Loaders, Drivers, Driver cum Operator and Cleaners for Solid Waste Management in Zone 1 of Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike on Outsource Basis for the year 2023-24, **Indent No. DMA/2023-24/SE2135,** Estimated Tender Amount: **Rs. 4,54,60,962.35/-**, EMD Rs.6,81,914/-, 2. Estimation for Supply of Loaders , Drivers, Driver cum Operator and Cleaners for Solid Waste Management in Zone 2 of Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike on Outsource Basis for the year 2023-24, **Indent No.DMA/2023-24/ SE2136,** Estimated Tender Amount Rs. **4,07,26,069.31/-**, EMD. Rs. 6,10,891/-, 3) Estimation for Supply of Loaders , Drivers, Driver cum Operator and Cleaners for Solid Waste Management in Zone 3 of Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike on Outsource Basis for the year 2023-24, **Indent No.DMA/2023-24/SE2137**, Estimated Tender Amount Rs. **4,02,05,682.70/-** EMD.Rs.6,03,085/-, 4) Estimation for Supply of Loaders , Drivers, Driver cum Operator and Cleaners for Solid Waste Management in Other Vehicles of Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike on Outsource Basis for the year 2023-24, **Indent No.DMA/2023-24/SE2134**, Estimated Tender Amount Rs. **2,93,36,397.51/-**, EMD.Rs.4,40,046/-, 5) Last Date and Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications Date : **07.02.2024 Time : 5.00pm**, 6) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders Date : **22.02.2024 Time : 4.30pm**, 7) Last Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid Date : **23.02.2024 Time : 5.00pm**, 8) Last Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid Date : **27.02.2024 Time : 5.00pm**, 9) Pre Bid Meeting details : Date : **12.02.2024 Timing : 11.00 am,** Place : Room No.10, Kalaburagi Mahanagar Palike, Tank Bund Road, Jagat Kalaburagi-585101, 10) Address to contact for more details: Assistant Executive Engineer (Environment), Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi, 11) Website details: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner, (Development)
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/732/KSMC&A/2023-24

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KASHAFIYA Karima, R/o No 108/24/1, Vinayaka Nagar Main Road, Opp Ghosiya Masjid, Geddalahalli, Bangalore-560077 have changed my name to Kashfiya Karima vide affidavit dt: 22.01.2024 sworn before Notary Sumithra.N, B'lore

I, SRINIVAS S/o Shivarao Patil R/o #15 Guru Krupa New Jewargi Road Udaya Nagar Gulbarga 585102 changed Name to Shrinivas Sworn before Affidavit Appasaheb B Sunagar date 30.12.2023.

I, LAKSHMI.R, W/o Jayalani, R/a #25, Kuvempu Nagar, 1st Cross, Vijinapura, Dooravaninagar Post, Bengaluru-560016 have changed my name to Jumana Haseena.J vide affidavit dt: 24.01.2024 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, B'lore

I, SOMA Naik, S/o Ramachandra Nayak, R/at No.101, Near Art of Living, Salludoddi, Bengaluru-560062, have changed my name from Soma Nayak to Soma Naik vide Affidavit dated 22-01-2024 before Notary Gangaraju.B. N, Bangalore.

I, SISTER Priyanka, D/o Varghse.V.J, R/at No.9, 4th Main, Jayalakshmipuram, Mysuru City-570012, presently camp at Bengaluru, have changed my name from Sister Priyanka to Priyanka vide affidavit dated 24-01-2024 before Notary Y. R. Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

THANKSGIVING

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE, PG building, GB Palya, Bommanahalli, 3.1cr Negotiable, brokers excuse, 7287039697

SITUATION VACANT

FINANCE

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSION JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-59) ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 7404 OF 2022
Hg. 29/02/2024

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.
A body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 And having its Regional office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C-Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. And represented by its POA Holder, Mr. M. Rohit Ali, S/o. Ishrath Ali M. Aged about 26 years,
...PLAINTIFF

AND :
Mr. Alexandar Jayaraj, S/o Jayaraj Swamy Dass, Aged about 33 years, R/a House No.5/1, 9th Cross, Karamchand Layout, St. Thomas Town Post, Lingarajapuram Bengaluru - 560 084.
...DEFENDANTS

Summons/Notice through Paper Publication

Mr. Alexandar Jayaraj, S/o Jayaraj Swamy Dass, Aged about 33 years, R/a House No.5/1, 9th Cross, Karamchand Layout, St. Thomas Town Post, Lingarajapuram Bengaluru-560 084. **...DEFENDANTS**

WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount **Rs.03,78,887/- (Rupees Three Lakh Seventy Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Seven Only)** together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization.

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble City Civil & Session Judge Court (CCH-59), At Bangalore, in person or by a advocate/ pleader on **29/02/2024** at **11:00 A.M**. to answer the questions of the same. Failing which the matter will be heard and determined as **"EX-PARTE".**

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this19 day of January 2024.

By the order of court
Assistant Registrar,
City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
Mr. K.N. Arvinda Navada
Advocate
No.177/1, (88) 1st Floor,
Besides 12th Cross,
Cubbonpet Main Road,
Bengaluru- 560002

IN THE COURT OF THE 66th. ADDL, CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-67) ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 6684 OF 2022

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at : "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 And having its Regional office at : ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C-Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru- 560 001. And represented by its POA Holder, Mr. M Rohit Ali, S/o Ishrath Ali M, Aged about 26 years, **...PLAINTIFF**

AND :
Mr. Varanasi Naresh, Aged about 30 years, S/o Srinivas Rao, R/a No. 20, Charuki PG, Veerappa Reddy Layout, 1st Cross, Near SGR Dental College Road, Munekolala, Bangalore- 560 037.
...DEFENDANT

Summons/Notice through Paper Publication

Mr. Varanasi Naresh, Aged about 30 years, S/o Srinivas Rao, R/a No. 20, Charuki PG, Veerappa Reddy Layout, 1st Cross, Near SGR Dental College Road, Munekolala, Bangalore- 560 037.
...DEFENDANT

WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount Rs. 8,69,491/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Ninty one Only) together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization.

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a advocate/ pleader on **06/03/2024** at **11:00 A.M** to answer the questions of the same. Failing which the matter will be heard and determined as **"EX-PARTE".**

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this **20th** day of **January, 2024.**

By the order of court
The Assistant Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff,
Mr. K.N. Arvinda Navada
Advocate
No.177/1, (88) 1st Floor,
Besides 12th Cross,
Cubbonpet Main Road,
Bengaluru- 560 002.

THANKSGIVING

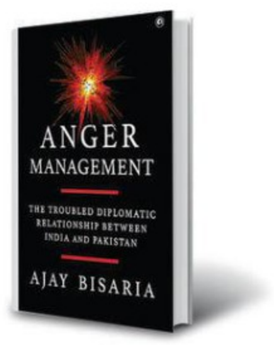
REAL ESTATE

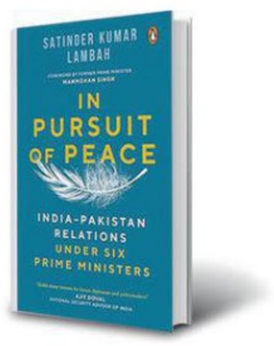
SITUATION VACANT

FINANCE

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GETTY IMAGES





From the trenches: India, Pakistan relations through the prism of diplomacy

Former diplomats trace the green shoots that gave rise to hopes for peace between the neighbours and explain the challenges and hurdles to managing a complex relationship with a history of hostility; they also rue missed opportunities that Pakistani and Indian leaders have failed to seize

Suhasini Haidar

"The only 'normal' ones, are those you don't know very well," famed Austrian psychologist Alfred Adler said about people, but it's a thought that holds true for India-Pakistan relations as well. The two countries, that know one another only too well, were separated in a very painful birth, and while they have tried to build "normal" relations with each other for decades since, every attempt has failed.

Since 2014, a chain of events have seen them give up even the semblance of bilateral discourse: they have ended all direct trade, travel by rail, bus and air, denied visas to each other's artists, musicians, actors and writers, stopping all but religious pilgrimage exchanges, as well as shunned the composite bilateral dialogue between officials. Since 2019, they have dispensed with High Commissioners and all political contact altogether.

At a time when both sides are in danger of losing all institutional memory of engaging with each other, the last High Commissioner to Pakistan Ajay Bisaria's historical study-cum-memoir, *Anger Management: The Troubled Diplomatic Relationship between India and Pakistan* (Aleph), steps into the breach.

Expulsion and after

Mr. Bisaria, who was posted to Islamabad in 2017, and expelled after the Modi government's Article 370 move in August 2019 which angered the Imran Khan government in Pakistan, writes in the prologue that the attempt was to tell the story of India-Pakistan diplomacy "from the point of view of its practitioners, those who exited early and those who stayed long in the trenches". He divides the history of the relationship into decades rather than events, with Section 1 focusing on the decade from 1947-1957 and so on until Section 8, focusing more closely on his own tenure and what has followed, from 2017-2023.

It is in this last section as well as a previous chapter dealing with 1997-2007, when Ajay Bisaria was Private Secretary to Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1999-2004), which includes the 1999 Air India hijacking, where the book really differs from others who have written about their tenures in Pakistan such as High Commissioner from 2013-2015, T.C.A. Raghavan's *The People Next Door* (HarperCollins) and H.C. Sharat Sabharwal's *India's Pakistan Conundrum: Managing a Complex Relationship* (Routledge).

Both predecessors have written fine books that are powerful expositions on understanding Pakistan, but they focused on theory, missing such a detailed account of their own tenures. It is the reader's good fortune that another former High Commissioner from the 1990s, Satinder Lambah, who was the special envoy for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and ran the back-channel talks with Pakistan for nearly a decade, also wrote his memoirs in quite the same personalised vein as Mr. Bisaria, in a book published only after he passed away in 2021, *In Pursuit of Peace: India-Pakistan Relations under Six Prime Ministers* (Penguin).

In his book Bisaria, who will be at *The Hindu* Lit Fest 2024 in Chennai this weekend to talk about his book, reveals that when the NDA lost the elections in 2004, he stayed on to help with continuity and organised Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's calls with foreign leaders including Pakistan President General Musharraf. It was in that phone call that Dr. Singh first recited the couplet that so well describes the missed opportunities that Pakistani and Indian leaders have failed to seize. 'Kuch aise bhi manzar hain tareek ki nazron mein/lamhe ne khata ki, sadiyon ne saza payee (History records those points where mistakes of a few moments meant a punishment for ages).

The Pulwama attack

Mr. Bisaria's description of the period from February-August 2019, from the Pulwama attack, India's response airstrikes at Balakot and the Pakistani counter-response, the brief détente between the two countries after the release of Captain Abhinandan Varthaman, describes the preamble to total disconnect between the two countries after the government reorganised Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and modified Article 370. His play-by-play of all that happened, including what each of the officials and leaders on both sides said at the time, as well as the involvement of the U.S., U.K., UAE, Saudi Arabia, documents third-party mediation in an India-Pakistan crisis.

Mr. Bisaria documents how ties gradually plummeted from the moment before he left for the Pakistan assignment, when Prime Minister Modi told him to take a "message of peace" and to expect peace in return, to the moment during the Balakot crisis, when Mr. Modi refused to take a call from Mr. Khan, saying later that he would have unleashed a "Qatl ki raat" on Pakistan if the captain captured in Pakistani territory had not been returned home safely. He likens Mr. Modi's plight to that of Mr. Vajpayee and Dr. Singh, when despite several outreaches and even a visit to Lahore, terror attacks from Pakistan put paid to all plans for "peace".

Mr. Bisaria describes Pakistani action, under pressure from the West, India and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) strictures to crack down on terrorism, as well as the tussle between Army Chief General Qamar Bajwa and PM Khan. In a section titled the "Bajwa CT (Counter-Terror) Doctrine", Mr. Bisaria recounts a series of meetings behind the scenes that confirm Indian National Security and MEA officials led by the Indian High Commission were talking directly to the Pakistani military between March and July 2019. Mr. Bisaria himself engaged with one of Prime Minister Imran Khan's closest aides Naeem ul Haq (who passed away subsequently). However, the Article 370 move put paid to whatever green shoots there may have been in the Pakistani effort to focus on its domestic issues rather than fomenting trouble for India. "With Pakistan's counter-terror campaign paused," Mr. Bisaria recounts, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba were "back in business" post-August. With his expulsion, talks, if any, have been left to those carried out by the channel between Sardar Patel Bhawan (NSC HQ in Delhi) and Rawalpindi.

Reflections on ties

Despite his tense tenure, Mr. Bisaria, who retired after a stint as India's High Commissioner to Canada (2019-2022), is reflective about the friendships he made in Pakistan. Very few Indian diplomats who have served in Pakistan actually "preserve their neutrality", he writes. "You could become a peacenik, you could become a hawk, but you're seldom left in the middle". Quoting a former Pakistani Foreign Secretary who spoke of the India-Pakistan "Track-II" circuit of experts on both sides that meet to discuss the relationship, he adds, "Several former hawks, freed of their talking points, became doves fluttering for peace."

No matter how realistic they seem, diplomats that don't believe in engagement simply talk themselves out of their own jobs...and it is those diplomats who believe that the future can be different from India and Pakistan's failure-ridden past that persevere. In the words from a poem PM Vajpayee composed and read out during the Lahore Bus trip, that Mr. Bisaria recounts with a flourish – "Jo hum par guzri bacchon ke sang na hone dengein, jang na hone dengein (We won't allow our children to go through what we have, We won't allow war)."

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subramanian

"Ms. B. Acharya, Bhubaneswar, wants to know the meaning of the sentence, 'He made a hole in the water last month'."

'To make a hole in the water' means 'to commit suicide by drowning'. 'Hole' here means 'a grave', this idiom is rarely used these days. 'Why I don't go and make a hole in the water, I don't know'. (Charles Dickens, Bleak House)."

"Mr. V. Sivaramakrishna Rao, Gudur, refers to the sentence 'Kanyakumari is a beauty spot' in Lesson 13 of NCERT English Reader for Class VII and says that 'beauty spot' is wrongly used, as a beauty spot refers to a mole (either natural or purposefully made) on the face in order to increase the appearance of the face by contrast."

"It is not wrongly used. It also means 'a beautiful locality'."

"Mr. K. Balasubramaniyam, St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi, wants to know the meaning of 'on all fours'."

" 'To go on all fours' means 'to crawl about like an animal or an infant'.

He went on all fours to amuse his grandchildren.

'It does not go on all fours' means that it is not correct in every detail. Macaulay said that 'no simile can go on all fours'. That is, there can't be a one-to-correspondence between two things compared."

"Ms. L. Tickoo, Chandigarh, wants to know the meaning of 'dentiloquy'."

" 'Dentiloquy' is 'the practice of talking through the teeth'. Some talk through their teeth. Most of us do it when we are angry. Some talk through their hat!

She is an expert in dentiloquy."

"Mrs. Akkiraju Savithramma, Dharmavaram, wants to know whether it is correct to use the word 'convent' to refer to a particular kind of school."

" A convent is 'a building in which a community of nuns lives'. A convent school is a school run by nuns. In India, a lot of people use the word 'convent' to mean a convent school. I don't know whether it is exaltation of meaning or degeneration of meaning!"

"Ms. K. Swarnalatha, Calcutta, wants to know whether the following sentence is correct: 'He is angry on her'."

" No. It should be 'He is angry with her'. 'Angry' is followed by with or at or about. You are angry with a person.

I am not angry with you.
She was angry with him.
Don't be angry with me.
I was angry with myself for doing it.
At is used of things or actions.
I was angry at his behaviour.
I was angry at the play.
About is used of actions or things.
I am angry about her behaviour.
I am angry about the whole thing."

Published in The Hindu on November 6, 1990.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On this day, 110 years ago, the world had its first transcontinental telephone call. A quiz on the invention which changed the way we communicate

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Alexander Graham Bell is credited with placing this call from New York city. Who was on the other end of the line in San Francisco?

QUESTION 2

While the formal date of the first transcontinental telephone call is marked January 25, 1914, the telephone line itself had been laid by June 17, 1914, and a month later, _____ ____, the president of AT&T, checked if the line was okay by making a test call. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 3

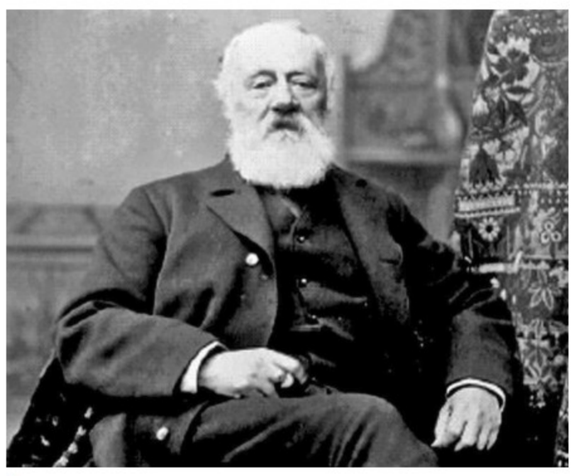
An important precursor to Bell's design of the telephone was the world's first electromagnetic telegraph, developed by ____ _____ and Wilhelm Weber. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 4

On July 1, 1875, Bell decided to test one of the first mature models of his design of the telephone, asking his assistant to use a diaphragm made of _____'s ____. This material, Bell reasoned, could reproduce sounds of the human voice that the human ear is familiar with. Fill in the blank with the name of the material.

QUESTION 5

Tivadar Puskas was an engineer working with Thomas Alva Edison who, after he found out that Bell had received a patent for a design of the telephone, was among the first to propose the idea of a _____ — a facility that would route calls between calls and receives in a geographical area. Fill in the blank.



Visual question:

Name this Italian inventor who may have invented the electromagnetic telephone before Mr. Bell did. This inventor called his device 'telettrofono', and couldn't afford to renew the patent he'd received for it after 1874.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The Adams prize is awarded by this institution. **Ans: Cambridge University**
2. Bhabha was described as 'the modern equivalent of Leonardo da Vinci' by this man. **Ans: C.V. Raman**
3. The other two members of India's first AEC. **Ans: S. S. Bhatnagar and K. S. Krishnan**
4. Dr. Bhabha came up with this strategy for India's nuclear power programme which focuses on extracting this mineral. **Ans: India's three-stage nuclear power programme; Thorium**
5. Dr. Bhabha died in this incident. **Ans: He died in an Air India plane crash near Mont Blanc**
6. Bhabha claimed that India could make a nuclear bomb in these many months. **Ans: 18 months**
7. This event delayed Dr. Bhabha's return to England. **Ans: World War II**
Visual: Where is this image from? **Ans: International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in Geneva, Switzerland, August 20, 1955**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Jagrati Shukla| Akshansh Thakur| Aaryaman Thakur| Prashant Nain

Word of the day

Gully:
deep ditch cut by running water, especially after a prolonged downpour

Synonyms: vale, valley

Usage: *Be careful while going down that road, a gully was formed by the flash floods.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/gullypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈgʌli/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of General Public, that my client **MR.SUKESH GERARD,** S/o. Mr.Gerard George, AADHAR NO.9691 3494 7126, Residing at No.401, 9th B Main, 1st Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyannagar, Bangalore – 560 043, intends to purchase the schedule property from **MRS. PHILOMENA IRA DSOUZA,** W/o Late Anthony Baptist D'souza, AADHAR NO.8360 0307 3809, Residing at No21, M.I.G, K.H.B.Colony, 5th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore – 560 095.

This notice is hereby given for the information of General public that, any persons/Banks/Financial institutes having any right, title, share, claim or interest against/in the schedule property may contact me with their documentary/legitimate proof in support

of their claim within **10 (Ten) days** from the date of this notice. If no claim is so lodged with me within **10 (Ten) days** from the date of publication, after which my clients shall proceed with the Absolute Sale Deed on the basis that there are no claims whatsoever, as if the same is free from all kinds of claims/ encumbrances and no claim shall be entertained later.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Two bedrooms residential apartment bearing **No.001,** Municipal PID No.68-6-372 on the Ground Floor, in the Apartment Building known as **"EVANTHA PINE CREST",** constructed over the property bearing Municipal Khatha **No.372, 4th Block, Koramangala Layout, Bengaluru-560034,** Ward No.68, in BBMP limits, having a super built area of **1225 Square Feet** inclusive of proportionate share in the common areas such as balconies, utility space, passage, lobbies, lift, staircase and other areas of common area, and the building is of RCC roofing with separate electricity, common water and sanitation, including all rights, title, interest, privileges, appurtenances, together with a car parking slot in the basement floor bearing No.001 together with 361 Sq. feet undivided share, right, title and interest.

Mrs.Manjula Shivukumar, Advocate
No. C-1, 1st Floor, Maruthi Pearl Plaza, D.V.G. Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004. Mob: 9945027091.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, my client, Mr.P.V.Suresh Kumar S/o. Vishwanathan, Aged about 52 years, residing at No.# 105, Arjuna Aura Apartment, Vijaya Bank Layout, Oppsite Sana Super Market, Bilekahalli, Bangalore South, Bangalore- 560076, has LOST THE ORIGINAL

1). ALLOTMENT LETTER DATED 06.10.1978 ISSUED BY THE BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, IN FAVOUR OF VEDAMURTHACHAR, IN RESPECT OF SITE NO.1746, SITUATED AT HAL III STAGE, BANGALORE,

2). POSSESSION CERTIFICATE DATED 02.02.1979 ISSUED BY THE BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, IN FAVOUR OF VEDAMURTHACHAR, IN RESPECT OF SITE NO.1746, SITUATED AT HAL III STAGE, BANGALORE,

3). CONDITIONAL DEED OF SALE DEED DATED 14.05.1985, WHICH IS REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO.683/1985-86 IN BOOK-I, PAGES 103-105, VOLUME 2436, IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUB- REGISTRAR, SHIVAJINAGAR, BANGALORE, REGISTERED ON 26.06.1985,

4). SALE DEED DATED 05.06.1989, WHICH IS REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO.858/1989-90 IN BOOK-I, PAGES 176-182, VOLUME 2841, IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUB-REGISTRAR, SHIVAJINAGAR, BANGALORE,

5). GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY DATED 03.02.1995, WHICH IS REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO.1093/1994-95 IN BOOK-IV, PAGES 196-199, VOLUME 323, IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUB- REGISTRAR, SHIVAJINAGAR, BANGALORE, REGISTERED ON 03.02.1995 AND

6). SALE DEED DATED 26.03.2018, WHICH IS REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO.BNS-1-18650-2017-18 OF BOOK-I, STORED IN CD NO.BNSD646, IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUB-REGISTRAR, SHIVAJINAGARA (BANASAWADI), BANGALORE

LOST AT BILEKAHALLI BUS STOP, BANGALORE, ON 05.08.2023, BETWEEN 01:00PM TO 02:00PM. A COMPLAINT IS LODGED IN ONLINE DATED 24.01.2024 VIDE LOST REPORT BEARING NO.0902151/2024, Finders may return the same to the near Police Station or contact at the below address.

BHASKAR.M,
ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS,
Office: No.40, 2nd Floor, 71st Cross, near 6th Block Signal, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010 **Land line**: 080-48520073

Medical Counselling Committee (MCC)
Directorate General of Health Services
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India

सत्यमेव जयते

All the NEET SS 2023 eligible candidates are hereby informed that to prevent wastage of precious medical seats, the competent authority has decided to conduct a **Special Round** for the vacant D.M/ M.Ch and DNB SS Seats for this academic year i.e 2023. The details of the vacant seats are available on MCC website **(www.mcc.nic.in)**.

The salient points for Special Round to be conducted by MCC may be noted as under:

- All the candidates who have completed their PG degree as per NMC norms and have taken NEET SS exam for the academic year 2023 would be 'ELIGIBLE' to participate in upcoming Special Round of SS counselling 2023.
- The Security Deposit of candidates who do not join their allotted seat in Special Round will be forfeited.
- Candidates who are not holding any seat in earlier rounds are eligible to participate in Special Round.
- Candidates who resigned their allotted seats in Round-1 & Round-2 to join seats through INI-SS counselling are Not Eligible' to participate.
- Details regarding schedule/scheme and eligibility for Special Round of SS Counselling 2023 will be made available at **www.mcc.nic.in**. Kindly stay in touch with website for latest updates.

Office of MCC

ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED
CHENNAI - 600 035

TENDER NOTICE

TENDER FOR ENGAGEMENT OF AN AGENCY FOR PROVIDING SECURITY SERVICES IN ELCOT SEZ, SHOLINGANALLUR, CHENNAI FOR 3 YEARS.

Tender No.	**ELCOT/ITPD/SHO-SEZ/SECURITY/OT/2023-24**
Pre- Bid Meeting	**01.02.2024 @ 11.00 AM**
Tender Submission Due date and Time	**23.02.2024 @ 03.00 PM**
Tender Opening Date & Time	**23.02.2024 @ 05.00 PM**
Earnest Money Deposit	**Rs.2,35,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs and Thirty Five Thousand Only)**
e-Portal Charges	**Rs.11,800/- (Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Only)**

1. The Bidders may download the tender documents, help documents and user manuals from **https://tntenders.gov.in**
2. ELCOT is a Developer under SEZ Act and Rules. All supplies and Services made to ELCOSEZs are **"ZERO RATED TAX"** under **GST No.33AAACE1670K2ZT.**
3. Therefore the quoted price to exclude all output taxes for supplies and services to ELCOT.

MANAGING DIRECTOR,
ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED
692, II Floor, M.H.U. Complex, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035
DIPR/418/TENDER/2024 **e-mail: md@elcot.in URL: www.elcot.in**

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-TENDER

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

e-bids are invited from the eligible bidders for the following work as per the procedure of CMWSSB under two cover system conforming to the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000.

	Name of work and Tender No.	Bid Security	Prebid meeting Date	e-Bid Submission closing Date	e-Bid Opening Date
1	Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance including Repairs & Maintenance of 100 MLD Nemmeli conveying system consisting of HT pump houses at Nemmeli, Akkarai, Thiruvanmiyur and Velachery west and 64 km long conveying main for a period of 5 years. CNT/WSS/NCB/MWB/3603/2023-24	Rs.6.93 Lakhs	13.02.2024 at 11.30 a.m.	05.03.2024 upto 3.00 p.m.	06.03.2024 after 3.30 p.m.

Consortium bids are not acceptable

Bid Security by online transfer only through tenders Portal. The tenderer shall submit scanned copy of online transaction statement towards Bid Security as part of Tender document.

Availability of tender documents and e-bid submission is permitted through tender portal / website:**www.tntenders.gov.in** For all other details refer tender schedule in the website from 02.02.2024.

DIPR/354/TENDER/2024 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (Contracts & Monitoring)

Ph. No. 06670-235504; E_Mail: serwbpt@yahoo.com
GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS, CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA.

Bid Identification No.:- BPT/Online-46/2023-24 Date: 19.01.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE WORKS IN ODISHA
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e - Procurement

1. Name of the Work : **Construction & Maintenance of Dhobaghat-Koktiam - Sindurpara-Karphar Road in the district of Nuapada under the Schemes MMSY-Connecting Unconnected Village in the Difficult Area (MMSY-CUVDA) for the year 2023-24.**
2. No of Works : **01 No.**
3. Location details : **Nuapada District**
4. Estimated Cost : As per NIT
5. Period of Completion : As per NIT.
6. Cost of tender paper : **Rs.10,000/-** per set
7. Other details :

Availability of tender for online bidding		Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of technical bid
From	To		
30.01.2024 11.00 A.M.	20.02.2024 5.00 P.M.	19.02.2024	21.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the web site **"www.tendersorissa.gov.in"**

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Bhawanipatna
O-2279 : OIPR-25102/11/0062/2324

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, KARNATAKA

14th NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY

25.01.2024
THURSDAY
Time: 11:00 AM

Venue:
SIR. PUTTANNA CHETTY HALL (TOWN HALL)

Chief Guests
Sri Thaawarchand Gehlot
Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka

Sri. Tushar Giri Nath, I.A.S
Chief Commissioner
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Sri. Manoj Kumar Meena, I.A.S
Chief Electoral Officer
Karnataka

"Nothing like voting, I vote for sure"

#ALLtoPoll
https://ceo.karnataka.gov.in
ceokarnataka
Voters Helpline 1950 Tolle Free

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Construction Organisation
E-Tender Notice No. E/CN/ERS/TN/03/2023-24 Dated 22.01.2024

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Ernakulam Junction-682016 invites E-enders for the work mentioned below as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in the portal www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderer/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted. The Bid Security should be paid through online payment gateway available on the website by the way of multiple banks net banking, debit and credit card.

Item no.	Tender No.	Name of work
1.	E-572-CN-ERS-WC-OT-586	MAJN-PNMB section Electrification of Platforms, new station building, Other service buildings, approach road, and supply erection. testing and commissioning of 25KVA 25KV/230V Auxiliary transformer at Jokatte station and supply erection testing and commissioning of 25KVA, 25KV/230V Auxiliary transformer and under frame examination lighting Mangalore Junction station
2.	E-572-CN-ERS-WC-OT-587	Doubling of track between TVC-CAPE Modification to HT & LT power line crossings and parallel alignment including shifting of transformers in Nemam - Eraniel section - Phase-2.

Sl.No	Tender No.	Approx. Cash value in Lakhs (₹)	Bid Security (₹)	Date of Opening of tender	Completion period in months
1.	E-572-CN-ERS-WC-OT-586	167.97	234000.00	16.02.2024	12 Months
2.	E-572-CN-ERS-WC-OT-587	236.37	268200.00	16.02.2024	18 Months

Tenderers can submit Bid security in the form of bank guarantee also.

For further details visit internet site **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact office of Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway Ernakulam Junction 682 016.

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Padmanabhanagar Division, Opp. to Sagar Hospitals, Kumarswamy Layout, Bangalore-560078.

No: EE/PN/TEND/12/2023-24 **Date: 24.01.2024**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover Tender) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, Padmanabhanagar Division, BBMP Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/ KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations for the constructions of work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (In Rs.)
1	Providing and Asphalting to Jamia Masjid road and Surrounding area in Ward No.203 Banashankari Temple Ward (Old Ward No-180). (2nd call) (SC Category)	25.00	25,000/-
2	Providing Name Boards in Ward No.205 Vikram Nagar (Old Ward No.181 and 182), (2nd call) (SC Category)	10.00	12,500/-

Stipulated Period: 90 Days

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender Documents can be downloaded from Through Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (2)** Pre Bid meeting will be held on: **31.01.2024 at 03.00 P.M (3)** Last Date Submission of Tender Documents on or before:**4.00 P.M** on **08.02.2024 (4)** Technical Bids will be opened on**: 09.02.2024 at 04.05 P.M.**

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit e-Procurement portal website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Padmanabhanagar Division, BBMP

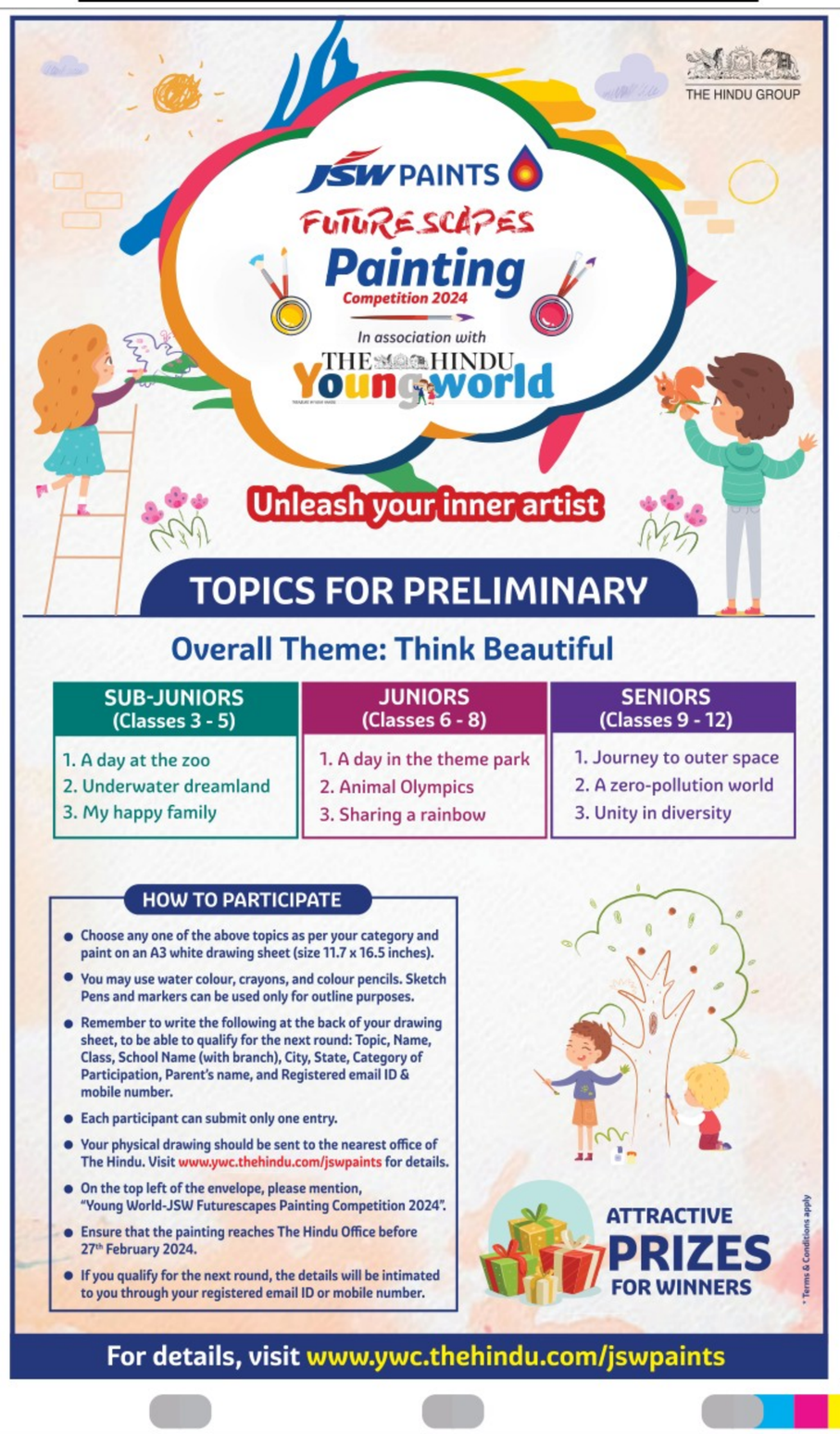
TAMIL NADU INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
3rd Floor, CMDA Building Tower-II, 'Thalamuthu-Natarajan Maaligai', No.1, Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
Phone: 044-28594366/28550155/255/355/455; E-mail: soinfra.findpt@tn.gov.in Website: www.tnidb.tn.gov.in

INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL

Preparation of a Master Plan to develop a state-of-the-art Film City in Chennai

1. The Chief Executive Officer, Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board invites proposal from consultants for Preparation of a Master Plan to develop a state-of-the-art Film City in Chennai.
2. Request for Proposal (RfP) may be downloaded from the websites: **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** and **https://tnidb.tn.gov.in/en/**. The Bid Security amount of Rs.50,000/- is to be paid through the e-procurement portal.
3. A pre-bid meeting for the prospective applicants is scheduled for 05.02.2024 at 11:00 Hours.
4. Proposals complete in all respect must be submitted online through the e-Procurement process as specified in the RFP on or before 15.00 Hours on 26.02.2024.
5. All other details are available in the Request for Proposal (RfP).

DIPR/386/Tender/2024 **Chief Executive Officer, TNIDB**


THE HINDU GROUP
JSW PAINTS
FUTURESCAPES
Painting
Competition 2024
In association with
THE HINDU Young world
Unleash your inner artist
TOPICS FOR PRELIMINARY
Overall Theme: Think Beautiful
SUB-JUNIORS (Classes 3 - 5)
1. A day at the zoo
2. Underwater dreamland
3. My happy family
JUNIORS (Classes 6 - 8)
1. A day in the theme park
2. Animal Olympics
3. Sharing a rainbow
SENIORS (Classes 9 - 12)
1. Journey to outer space
2. A zero-pollution world
3. Unity in diversity
HOW TO PARTICIPATE
Choose any one of the above topics as per your category and paint on an A3 white drawing sheet (size 11.7 x 16.5 inches).
You may use water colour, crayons, and colour pencils. Sketch Pens and markers can be used only for outline purposes.
Remember to write the following at the back of your drawing sheet, to be able to qualify for the next round: Topic, Name, Class, School Name (with branch), City, State, Category of Participation, Parent's name, and Registered email ID & mobile number.
Each participant can submit only one entry.
Your physical drawing should be sent to the nearest office of The Hindu. Visit www.ywc.thehindu.com/jswpaints for details.
On the top left of the envelope, please mention, "Young World-JSW Futurescapes Painting Competition 2024".
Ensure that the painting reaches The Hindu Office before 27th February 2024.
If you qualify for the next round, the details will be intimated to you through your registered email ID or mobile number.
ATTRACTIVE PRIZES FOR WINNERS
* Terms & Conditions apply
For details, visit www.ywc.thehindu.com/jswpaints

THE HINDU GROUP

ACES SPORTS QUIZ

1. **Which Indian wrestler defeated Sweden's Emma Jonna Denise 16-6 to win the bronze medal in the women's 53kg event at the World Wrestling Championships 2023 in Belgrade?**
2. **In which sport did Neha Thakur, Vishnu Saravanan, and Eabad Ali bring laurels to India at the 2023 Asian Games?**
3. **At 65, who was India's oldest medalist at the 2023 Asian Games when he won the Silver medal in the Men's Bridge team event?**

SPORTSTAR ACES 2024 INDIA TRIUMPHS
#SSaces2024

Scan the QR code, take part in the quiz and vote for your favourite stars.
Top 3 winners every day will win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday quiz:
1. AUSTRALIA
2. CRICKET
3. KARTHIKEYAN MURALI

THE HINDU GROUP

G SQUARE GROUP
Presents
THE HINDU LIT FEST 2024
THE SHARPEST LITERATURE FESTIVAL IN INDIA
In Association with
NITTE | CHRIST

LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. **'"Lynch Files" by Ziya Us Salam investigates what activity of Indians in recent times that has led to several tragic incidents across the country?**
2. **In Ronya Othmann's "The Summers", where does Leyla travel from Germany in summer to reach her father's Kurdish village?**
3. **Name the animal that is the prime focus in Perumal Murugan's 'Poonachi', which traces the animal's journey of habitation, independence and motherhood.**

Visit newsth.live/LitfestQuiz
Read the Terms & Conditions.

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Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. THE BEGUM AND THE DASTAN
2. TARUN TAHILIANI
3. INDIA- USA

M BG-BGE

After a lull, Bengaluru development works to resume with white-topping

However, experts argue that development should begin from wards based on citizens' priorities

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

With an allocation of ₹2,000 crore spread across 120 diverse initiatives, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has rekindled the flame of development after a long lull. But the focus on white-topping and asphalting has led to dissenting voices that question the civic body's sense of priorities.

According to details provided by the BBMP, the civic body is planning white-topping of 45 roads of which 35 are in the core areas of Bengaluru, including M.G. Road and Cubbon Road. FILE PHOTO

According to details provided by the BBMP, the civic body is planning white-topping of 45 roads of which 35 are in the core areas, including M.G. Road and Cubbon Road, of Bengaluru.

Ashish Verma, convenor of Sustainable Transportation Lab at the Indian Institute of Science, told *The Hindu* that spending funds on white-topping roads, which are in good condition, is a misplaced priority. "Instead, the BBMP should ensure better working conditions of rainwater drains to avoid flooding. The flooding during monsoon is a major cause for potholes in Bengaluru. There is absolutely no necessity for white-topping M.G. Road and Cubbon Road," he said.

Srinivas Reddy of Bengaluru Nava Nirman Party (BNP) said the Karnataka government and BBMP are keen on big-ticket projects for the wrong reasons, and this is not the first government to allocate funds for arterial and sub-arterial roads. "The previous government, in the last leg, released about ₹6,000 crore. This has been the practice for many years," he pointed out. He wants development to begin from wards, based on citizens' priorities. "No citizen has demanded white-topping after this new government assumed power. At present, the government's priority should be handling the water crisis. The water problem will worsen. The price of a water tanker (12,000 litres) has reached ₹5,000. What are the plans of the BBMP to resolve this permanently?"

Amaresh S., activist, said the Congress government wants to show that it is working. as Lok Sabha polls are round the corner.

Republic Day: 575 police personnel deployed for security across city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A team of the Indian Army's Commando Special Forces rehearse ahead of Republic Day celebration at Manekshaw Parade Ground in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Karnataka government deployed over 575 police personnel and installed 100 surveillance cameras across Bengaluru, including at Manekshaw Parade Ground, ahead of Republic Day on Friday.

Addressing a press meet, Bengaluru Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said the police are fully prepared to ensure a peaceful Republic Day. For the past 15 days, security measures are being implemented in Bengaluru, he said. Talking about the parade, he said 30 platoons will be participating in the march, including army, air force, CRPF, KSRP, NCC, Scouts & Guides, Home Guards, and Excise. This year, a squad from the Kerala State Police will be participating in the parade.

Dedicated parking slots will be established near the ground for the public, and those wish to attend the event are advised to arrive early. Visitors will not be allowed to carry water bottles, match box, lighter, cigarette, black cloth, and plastic covers.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said this year, five gates have been set up as against four. The public should enter the ground through the 5th gate while the 4th gate is meant for VIPs. He said 1,500 children will be participating in the cultural event.

NoC for inter-country adoption: NRIs should approach agencies in the foreign country, says High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Non-resident Indians (NRIs) will have to knock on the doors of adoption authorities in the foreign country in which they are residing to seek communication to the Indian authorities for issuance of No Objection Certificate (NOC) and Conformity Certificate (CC) for inter-country adoption of a child even though the child is adopted in India under the provisions of the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, said the High Court of Karnataka.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while disposing of a petition filed by a childless couple, a Germany-based NRI man and his wife, who is at present in India.

The petitioners had complained that Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) of Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, has not issued NOC and CC to them even though they had communicated to CARA in June 2023 about completion of all other statutory requirements in terms of Adoption Regulations, 2022, for Inter-country Relative Adoption. The petitioners had pointed that the norm mandates that NOC and CC have to issued within 10 days from receipt of communication.

However, the court told the petitioners that as per the norms agreed among the counties in the Hague Convention of 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption, and the Adoption Regulations-2022 enacted by India under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act.

As per the Hague Convention and the Regulations-22, the Regulation any Hindu prospective adoptive parents habitually residing abroad may contact the authorised foreign adoption agency in case of Hague Convention ratified countries for forwarding the request to the country from which the child is being adopted, the court said.

In Germany

In the present case, the court said that the petitioners, who have already secured adoption verification certificate from the district magistrate, Chickballapur, as per the regulations, will have to approach the adoption agency in Germany for sending further communication to CARA in India for inter-country adoption and it is only on receipt of communication from adoption agency from Germany that the CARA can take further action from issuance of NOC and CC, the court said.

The High Court also pointed out that the apex court had made it clear that statutory requirements in cases of adoption cannot be interfered with by the writ courts.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

Tender Notice No. 04/2024
Dated : 19-01-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Description in brief
1	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Pit less electronic In-motion Weighbridge - CAMC for 10 years. **(Tender No. L8236927) (Qty : 01 No.)**
2	Brake control system including diver's vigilance control device for WAP7/WAG-9HC class of locomotives with necessary software, hardware, electrical & pneumatics for interface with dpwcs **(Tender No. L8245104) (Qty : 01 Set)**

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 10:30 Hrs on 13-02-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager
PUB/643/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl.No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	Total
1	CE/MTS	008, 009	2

For details of Works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: **www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/343/Tender/2024

HUBLI-DHARWAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Solid Waste Management Dept Hubli

No.HDMC./74/05/2023-24 **Date: 23 /01/2024**

Short Term e-Tender Notification
(Through E-Procurement Website Only)

Under SBM 2.O H.D.M.C taking up below mentioned projects as Per CPCB Guidelines, the tender related documents are made available in the e-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from the date of 23.01.2024, any queries, clarification, addendum, corrigendum shall be intimated through e-Procurement website only.

Sl No	Indent No	Estimate Amount in Lakhs / EMD Amount in Lakhs	Pre Bid Meeting Date	Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders	Date and Time for Opening of Technical/ Prequalification Bid
1	DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT/1732/CALL-3	691.37 / 10.37	29-01-2024 at 11.00 am	06-02-2024 Before 4.30 pm	08-02-2024 Before 11.30 am
2	DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT/1733/CALL-3	2247.42 / 22.47			

DIPR/Dwd/711/DeshpandePublicity/2023-24
Sd/- Executive Enginner (SWM)
Hubli-Dharwad Municipal Corporation, Hubli

By E-Mail/e-Despatch E_Mail ID:- serwcbaripada@gmail.com ; Ph.No. 06792-261343 / 261344
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
Gangraj, Baripada
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work
Identification No.- Online Tender-OMBADC N.C.B. No.345 for 2023-24
Letter No. 408 / Date : 22.01.2024 //

1. Name of the Work : OMBADC Road Work in the District of Mayurbhanj for the year 2023-24.
2. Total No. of Work : 01 No. (One)
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.206.96 Lakhs (approximately).
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : As per Annexure
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W.Circle,Baripada. Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada.	Road On-line N.C.B. No. 345	Dt.25.01.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.08.02.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.07.02.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.09.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.

O-2282 : **Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Baripada.**
OIPR-25130/11/0088/2324

TAMILNADU URBAN HABITAT DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Government of Tamil Nadu
No. 5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai - 600005, Tamil Nadu, India.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI) – E-Procurement Notice
(Consulting Services – Firm Selection)

Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB), Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing the Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project financed by the World Bank and ADB financed Inclusive Resilient Sustainable Housing for Urban Poor Sector Project in Tamil Nadu. TNUHDB now invites eligible Consulting Firms to indicate their interest in providing the services for the below mentioned assignment for Project Monitoring Unit of TNUHDB under the World Bank financed Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project.

"Procurement of System Integrator (SI) for Services to Design, Develop, Implement and Maintain Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System for TNUHDB"

The detailed REOI and Terms of Reference are available in the websites – **https://www.tntenders.gov.in** and **https:www.tnuhdb.tn.gov.in**. Last date and time for submission of EOI by the Consulting Firms is **12.02.2024 up to 11.00 AM.** The EOI along with the documents shall be submitted online in Tamil Nadu Government e-Procurement Portal: **https://www.tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR/421/Tender/2024
Superintending Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit, TNUHDB.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, CENTRAL IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR.
'e' Procurement Notice No. ACECIC-38/2023-24

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs.) E.M.D.	Cost of Bid Documents (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Bid Documents Available online for bidding From	To	Date of opening of Technical Bid	Period of Completion of Work
ACE, CIC, Bhubaneswar	KID-09/2023-24	Improvement to Malaguni Right Embankment from Brahmanipatana to Ostapari.	486.48	486500/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"A" Class	25.01.2024 At 10.00 Hours	08.02.2024 At 17.00 Hours	09.02.2024 At 11.00 Hours	12 (Twelve Calendar Month)
	NGR-17/2023-24	Cement Concrete Lining in Right Distributary of Kuanria Irrigation Project from RD.11.00 Km to RD.18.20 Km.	837.36	837400/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"A" & "Special" Class	25.01.2024 At 10.00 Hours	08.02.2024 At 17.00 Hours	09.02.2024 At 11.00 Hours	12 (Twelve Calendar Month)

e-mail ID:- **secic_dowr@yahoo.com**
Further details conditions can be seen from Govt. website: **www.tenderodisha.gov.in**
Additional Chief Engineer, Central Irrigation Circle
A-1288 : OIPR-32160/11/0046/2324

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

E-Tender Notice No. BE-29-2023-24-OT-28-29

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

OT No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
28	Replacement of over aged interlocking of Kelamangalam, Periyanagathunai, Rayakottai, Marandahalli, Palakkodu, Toppur and Karuvalli Stations with E.I - Electrical Arrangements and Left over works between Hindupur - Penukonda Stations in Yelahanka - Penukonda doubling project - Electrical works.	Rs. 79,60,480/-
29	Construction of track machine siding for a length of 420m at 6 major stations in Bengaluru Division (Bengaluru, Whitefield, Kengeri, Yesvantpur, Yelahanka and Bangarapet) & Construction of track machine siding for a length of 420m at 15 minor Stations in Bengaluru Division (Nelamangala, Thondebhavi, Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam, Rangepalli, Malur, Somanayakkanpatti, Shravanabelagola, Yediyuru, Bidadi, Chikkaballapur, Srinivaspur, Kolar, Dodbele, Chikbanavar & Mulanur) - Electrical works.	Rs. 89,20,266/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 09-02-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
PUB/640/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our client **Mr.Krishnappa,** aged about 52 years, W/o Sri.Yellappa, Aadhaar No.4433 3833 0090, residing at No.21, Sompura, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Dist-562125, represents that the Original Hakkuptahra (Possession Certificate) dated 10.02.1983, issued by Block Development Officer, Anekal Taluk, in respect to the SCHEDULE PROPERTY mentioned hereunder is lost/misplace and not traceable.

If anybody other than the said **Mr.Krishnappa** has any claim, right, title and interest on the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** by virtue of being in possession or above said Original Hakkupathra, or any Rights they should file their claim with documentary proof within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of issuance of this Public Notice in our office, at the address mentioned below, failing which, it will be taken for granted that nobody has any manner of right, title, interest or claim over the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** other than the said Mr.Krishnappa.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immoveable Property bearing V.P.Katha **No.1863/25/7,** E-Katha PID No.150200100100621611, Situated at **Sompura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Yamare Village Panchayath, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** measuring East to West 9.144 meter and North to South 12.192 meter, in all measuring **111.48 Sq.meter.,** and is bounded on the:

East by : House belongs to Dayananda;
West by : Private Property;
North by : House belongs to Allalappa;
South by : Road;

Shruthi.S, Advocate
Unit No.101, 1st Floor, No.663,
at 3rd Cross, Opp: to Karnataka Bank,
K.R.Puram, Bangalore-560036.

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2024 (OJEE-2024)

No: OJEE / 025 *DATE: 24-01-2024*

NOTICE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION FOR OJEE - 2024

Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE) - 2024 will be conducted during 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th of May, 2024

for admission to

B.Pharm / MCA /MSc (Computer Sc)/ MBA / Int. MBA / B. CAT / M.Tech / M.Tech (Part-Time) / M.Arch / M Plan / M.Pharm and Lateral Entry to B.Tech / B.Pharm Courses in Government and Private Universities and Colleges of Odisha

The Entrance Examination will be conducted in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode for all the courses as mentioned above.

Interested candidates are advised to fill up the respective Application Forms online through OJEE website (www.ojee.nic.in) only.

Filling-up of Online Application through OJEE website begins on 25th January, 2024 and will end on 15th March, 2024.

Please read, carefully, the 'Information Brochure' and the 'Instructions to fill On-line Application Form', which are available in the OJEE websites to get detailed information regarding eligibility criteria, reservation policy, examination pattern, syllabus etc.

Please note that **Outside State candidates** are not eligible for admission in Government Colleges, but they are eligible for admission in Private Colleges as per Odisha Government rule.

Candidates may install OJEE android App from Google Play Store for latest information and notices.

(For Admission to B.Tech/B.Arch/B.Plan/Int. MSc and MBBS/BDS/BAMS/BHMS courses at different Government and Private Colleges of Odisha, candidates have to appear JEE (MAIN)-2024 / NEET (UG)-2024 conducted by National Testing Agency, Govt. of India and for Admission to PG course of Homeopathy/ Ayurveda candidates to appear AIAPGET-2024)

For other details, please visit our website: www.ojee.nic.in / www.odishajee.com.

Sd/- CHAIRMAN, OJEE, Odisha
h-34 OIPR-14020/11/0020/2324

Government of Jharkhand
Rural Works Department
JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (JSRRDA)
3rd Floor, F.F.P. Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi 834004

VERY SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
(National Competitive Bidding Through e-Procurement)

Re-e-Tender No. 246 2023-24 **Dated: 24.01.2024**
5th Call
(PR NO.- 287515)

The undersigned on behalf of Government of Jharkhand invites item rate bids through e-Procurement from the eligible bidders registered* in appropriate class with any State/Central Government/State /Central Government Organization for construction and maintenance for five years of the works (List of schemes shall be displayed in the website pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in) of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY-III).

Sr. No.	Package ID	District Name	Block name	WORK NAME	Road/ LSB	Package wise Roads Length (in M)	Cost of Const. and Maint. With GST (in Lakh)	Earnest Money (in Lakh)	Time Period
1	JH-P3-22-23-GOD-LSB-01	Godda	Boarijore	Local Nala at Ch-0.395 KM	LSB	116.80	709.108	14.19	18 Months
			Boarijore	Local River at Ch- 6.717km	LSB				
			Boarijore	Local River Mahua Bathan at ch-7.805km	LSB				
			Boarijore	Local Nala at Ch-16.225 KM	LSB				

The bid should be submitted online in the website **pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in**. The bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate for online submission of bid.
Details of bid submission is as under:

Procurement Officer	Place of Opening	Availability of tender (on-line) for bidding From	To	Last date and time of bid submission	Date & time of opening (on-line) of tender Technical bid	Financial bid
1	2	3	4	6	8	9
Chief Engineer, JSRRDA, Ranchi	Chief Engineer, JSRRDA, Ranchi	**25.01.2024 at 10.00 AM**	**08.02.2024 upto 5.00 PM**	**08.02.2024 upto 5.00 PM**	**08.02.2024 at 05.30 PM**	To be informed later

** Non-registered bidders may also submit bid, however the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authority before signing the contract.*
*** Cost may change.*

Note :-

1. Amount of Bid Security should be taken as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document.
2. Cost of Bid Document (Rs. 10000) and Bid Security (as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet) shall be deposited **online** in form as mentioned in Bid Data Sheet failing which the bid will be treated non responsive and action shall be taken as per Sec. 2 of ITB clause 12.2 (d).
3. In case, it is found, even after the award of work that the bidder has submitted/ uploaded any false/erroneous/fraudulent statement/document, he/she is liable for blacklisting and forfeiture of Bid Security.
4. Bidders must submit GST registration certificate without which bid is liable to be rejected.
5. Bidders whose names appear in the Debar/blacklist of RWD, any department of GoJ/GoI (including JSRRDA) shall not be allowed to participate in the above bids.
6. Bids submitted by bidders, who have long pending ATR(s) / made inordinate delay in execution of earlier allotted construction/ maintenance works of PMGSY, may be rejected summarily.
7. In case of any discrepancy/dispute about units in BOQ, units as mentioned in Current SOR on which BOQ has been prepared shall prevail.
8. Participating bidders are free to submit grievances, if any, against the decision of technical evaluation within five working days from the date of uploading of decision of technical evaluation only through email at **jh-ce@pmgsy.nic.in** Grievance submitted after stipulated period shall not be considered.
9. Bidders must have valid registration with Employee Provident Fund organization under EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 failing which the bid shall be rejected.
10. Bidders must not quote rate for routine maintenance. The amount for routine maintenance as indicated in the Bill of Quantities must be acceptable to bidders.
11. For unbalanced bids, extra security will be required to be deposited by the bidder at the time of Agreement.
12. The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the tender at any stage without giving prior notice/reason.

All other details can be seen in the bidding document which is available in website **pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in** as per schedule mentioned above.

"Nothing like voting, I vote for sure"

PR 316867 (Rural Work Department) 23-24 (D)

Chief Engineer
JSRRDA, Ranchi

Efficient public health system can be market regulator for healthcare: C.N. Manjunath

He is retiring after a career of 35 years at the State-run Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

An efficient public health system providing quality patient care can be a market regulator for healthcare in the country, said C.N. Manjunath, director of the State-run Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research.

Dr. Manjunath, who is retiring this month-end after a career of 35 years at Jayadeva, told *The Hindu* that the rising healthcare costs in private hospitals can be checked only if public hospitals are able to provide quality and affordable care. "This itself can be a market regulator," he said.

The institute has recorded an overall growth of 500% and the bed strength has increased from 330 in 2006 to over 2,000 beds now (Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Kalaburagi facilities put together) exclusively for cardiac care, offering 24 hours ICCU management, interventions in cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery.

C.N. Manjunath, director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research. K. MURALI KUMAR

It is one of the largest heart care centre in the South East Asian Region performing about 55,000 cardiac cathlab procedures and 5,500 open heart surgeries annually. In the last 16 years, the institute has overall done eight lakh procedures and treated 75 lakh out patients.

Success story

"In my opinion, we cannot deliver quality services with just buildings and equipment. We need to create an excellent working atmosphere, nurture talent and develop a culture of hard work and discipline among the workforce. The biggest challenge is to manage the manpower because each one has a different mindset," said the doctor, who was awarded Padma Shri in 2007. He underlined the importance of proper communication with patients by the first point of contact, beginning with group 'D' workers.

"We introduced three slogans - 'Treatment first, payment next', 'Life is more important than the file', and 'Humanity is priority' and have been following these slogans literally," he said, chronicling how Jayadeva was built as a model facility.

With 120 cardiologists, 65 cardiothoracic surgeons, 48 cardiac anaesthetists, and six vascular surgeons who run its 18 cathlabs and 17 operation theatres, the institute sees nearly 1,700 walk-in patients every day and 80% of them are below poverty line.

Eyeball assessment

Asserting that poor families with no BPL cards or those who have lost the cards should not be deprived of free treatment, Dr. Manjunath said: "Rules say a BPL card is a must for free treatment. I raised the issue in the governing council in 2007 and got an authorisation for the director to identify the poor for free treatment through an eyeball assessment... My assessment has only grown stronger as I see poverty and helplessness in their eyes before I diagnose the disease," the doctor said.

Realising that a corpus fund was important for this, Dr. Manjunath requested his employees to donate a day's salary before requesting help from government and charitable organisations. "With the help of 45 charitable organisations, NGOs, and philanthropic bodies, we managed to raise a corpus fund of ₹150 crore and have been providing free treatment to the poor, who cannot be covered under the government health schemes, through this fund," he explained.

This affordable and high-quality cardiac care model has been appreciated by IIM, Bengaluru, London School of Economics, Leadership School of Singapore, Yale University, USA, and former U.S. president Barack Obama.

Recently, 14 members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health, who visited the main Jayadeva institute to study the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK) scheme, were impressed by the quality of services provided to patients.

"The delegation, led by Bhubaneshwar Kalita, could not believe that the institute is a State-run facility. In fact, they asked me who the owner of the hospital was and were shocked to learn it is a government hospital," he said.

Till date, Dr. Manjunath has performed around 55,000 cardiac interventions. He innovated a new technique of balloon mitral valvuloplasty (an intervention to open up a thickened heart valve) which is now called 'Manjunath's technique'. The left atrial thrombus classification is done according to a scheme proposed by Manjunath, called 'Manjunath classification'.

He has trained cardiologists from the US, France, the U.K., China and Vietnam in valvuloplasty procedures.

Asked what governments should do to make quality and affordable healthcare possible, he said, "Non-interference in the functioning of the tertiary and super-speciality hospitals and moving from construction of buildings to creation of posts."

Any incomplete project? Dr. Manjunath said, "I wish the 371-bed hospital complex on the new Jayadeva campus at Kalaburagi which is likely to be completed in three months should have been commissioned during my tenure."

INBRIEF

Annual Republic Day lecture at St. Joseph's College

The Department of English, St. Joseph's College of Commerce (Autonomous), is organising the 6th edition of the Annual Republic Day lecture on Thursday. Political Economist and social Commentator Parakala Prabhakar will deliver a lecture on "Rescuing the Republic - The future of Democracy in India". The programme will be held at Loyola Auditorium, college premises, Brigade Road, at 10.30 a.m

National Tourism Day programme today

The Department of Tourism and Travel Management, St. Claret College, in association with Karnataka Tourism and Ministry of Tourism will celebrate National Tourism Day on Thursday. Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism H.K. Patil will participate as the chief guest. The programme will be held at A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Auditorium, St. Claret College, M.E.S. Ring Road, Jalahalli at 9.30 a.m.

National Voters' Day programme to be held today

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, is organising National Voters' Day on Thursday. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot; Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, Manoj Kumar Meena; and BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, will participate as chief guests. The programme will be held at Town Hall on J.C. Road at 11 a.m.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated January 25, we take a look at ProcSys, one of the first IT companies in Bengaluru. Born in a basement on Richmond Road, it was much ahead of the times and one of the first Silicon Valley-model companies in India.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (January 25, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- Reconsidering the free movement regime **bit.ly/freemovtmanipur**
- The urgent need for data to make personalised medicine equitable **bit.ly/personalisedmed**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Two arrested for killing friend who harassed minor girl

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The railway police arrested two youths who had allegedly murdered their friend to stop him from stalking and harassing the minor sister of one of the accused.

Superintendent of Police, Railways, Soumyalatha K.S. said that based on the station master's information, the police found the body of an unidentified youth lying on the track at Ramanagara railway station. The police found a blood soaked cement brick that was suspected to have been used to smash the head of the deceased. The police registered a case of murder and recovered a chit from the pocket of the deceased containing a mobile phone number.

Using the number, the police identified the deceased as Arbaz Pasha, 24, from Tipunagar in Ramanagara. The police analysed the movements of the deceased and found that his two friends Syed Ilyas, 20, and Zaheer Ahmed, 20, were last seen with Arbaz. Further examination of call record details confirmed their role in the murder.

According to the police, the deceased and the accused were friends from the same locality and worked as labourers in a silk factory in Ramanagara. Probe revealed that Arbaz used to stalk and harass the minor sister of Zaheer so much that the family had to take her out of school.

Enraged, Zaheer decided to eliminate Arbaz and invited him for a party on January 21. After couple of drinks, Zaheer took Arbaz near the railway station tracks and attacked him with hockey sticks and used a cement block to smash his head with the help of Syed Ilyas.

The family of the accused were aware that they had killed Arbaz but failed to inform the police, police sources said.

Collaborative study looks at using naturally occurring substances for preventing, managing COVID-19

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A collaborative project between Unilever Ltd., Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (inStem), and National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) have uncovered new insights on SARS-CoV-2, which will assist in addressing emerging virus variants more effectively.

Different approach

inStem said that with the goal of expanding the arsenal to combat COVID-19, a team of scientists decided to take a different approach to combat the virus.

It said that instead of targeting the virus's proteins, this team focused on tackling the membrane that forms the outer covering of the virus with natural substances the human body already produces.

"These substances are called antimicrobial peptides (AMPs), and over the years, different AMPs have shown the ability to kill a wide range of microbes such as bacteria, viruses, and fungi. The membranes that form the outer shell of the virus are composed of lipids and fats, and disrupting this coating can inactivate the virus," said inStem.

It added that the researchers also found that people with higher levels of a particular AMP called cathelicidin (also known as LL37), that is naturally present in our body, tended to have milder COVID-19 symptoms.

Boosting levels of AMPs

This observation suggests that boosting the levels of AMPs can be a powerful method to prevent infections from SARS-CoV-2 and limit the spread of the virus in people who are already infected.

"This is breakthrough research that asks the question, how do we use such materials in our everyday use products like soaps, handwashes, sanitizers, and lotions to naturally release and boost our skin's AMPs? This will provide tremendous accessibility of the body's own natural protection in preventing transmission of infection and it can go hand in hand with other interventions like vaccination programs to further enhance the level of protection," said Vibhav Sanzgiri, executive director of R&D at Hindustan Unilever Limited.

The team also discovered that LL37's antiviral power can be boosted with niacinamide, commonly known as vitamin B3.

In short, the scientists have invented a formulation for preventing and managing COVID-19 using naturally occurring substances.

This formulation can be used in the future in different products, where virus protection needs to be delivered.

Govt. issues notification bringing back about 11,300 staff to OPS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Wednesday issued a notification to bring a part of government employees to a defined pension scheme (old pension scheme) from the existing new pension scheme. Around 11,300 employees will be eligible to go into the defined pension scheme from the new pension scheme.

Those who joined after April 1, 2006, but the advertisement for the posts were issued before that will be eligible for the defined pension. As per the notification, those eligible will have a one-time chance to opt for the defined pension scheme by June 30, 2024. The recommendation of those eligible should be made to the heads of departments before July 31, 2024, and sent for the Finance Department approval before August 31, 2024.

Bengaluru to be hub of Thomas Cook's charter operations for south India

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Thomas Cook (India) Limited, an omnichannel travel services company, has forayed into charter services to cater to the growing interest among customers in south India for holiday destinations in South Asian and European countries.

Bengaluru will function as the hub of Thomas Cook's charter operations for South India and leisure/holidays tourists from across the region would be able to board the charter flights departing from the city, Romil Pant, executive vice-president & Business Head (Holidays), Thomas Cook, told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

The travel firm's maiden air charter service will be between Bengaluru and Bhutanese Capital Thimphu, a three-hour flight, starting in April 2024.

"We will hire a 126-seater airplane from Bhutan Airlines and will operate five charter flights every eight days starting from April 27. This is the first time we are entering into the chartering space and we may extend this service to connect other neighbouring countries, including Nepal and Sri Lanka and also some European destinations," Mr Pant said.

Commenting on the rationale of starting the charter service from Bengaluru, he said Karnataka and Bengaluru were the company's biggest markets in the country. For instance, the southern region solely contributed 45% of Thomas Cook's total business in the country.

Currently, there is no direct flight to Bhutan from the southern region, only Delhi and Kolkata offer direct flights and land travel also takes a lot of time.

"South India is the largest contributor to the holidays business for us, overtaking the West and North India. Bengaluru and Karnatka has emerged as our number 1 source market for the leisure segment. Huge demand is coming from small cities including Mysuru, Udupi, and Hubballi too," he added.

Commenting on travel trends in Bengaluru, Mr. Pant said the travel firm had witnessed a 60% increase in demand this year compared to 2019, the travel spending also increased by up to 30%, and average holiday duration has increased to seven days from three days compared to 2019. The most favourite destinations for Bengalureans have been Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Mauritius, Singapore, Dubai, Vietnam, Azerbaijan, and Georgia while Andamans, Kashmir, North-East, Rajasthan, Kerala, Coorg, Chickmagaluru, Kabini, and Ooty are their favourite domestic getaways.

"We expect to see a business uptick of 30% from Karnataka this year," he said.

How Darshan's *Kaatera* brought joy to single screens

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

It feels like the old times, say exhibitors in Karnataka. Darshan's *Kaatera*, directed by Tharun Sudhir, has completed 25 days in over 400 screens, and the single-screen owners of the state are a happy bunch, perhaps after a lengthy layoff.

Released on the last Friday of 2023, *Kaatera* took off hugely. A grand opening is typical of all Darshan films, but its sustained dominance at the box office has brought life to several beleaguered theatres in Karnataka. The makers recently announced that the movie has crossed the ₹200-crore mark at the box office, with 1 crore tickets getting sold.

"Women are watching *Kaatera* in good numbers, and that's a sign of a blockbuster family entertainer," says Gundanna, veteran film distributor from Mysuru. Visuals of people in rural towns visiting theatres in tractors and bullock carts to watch the film have thrilled Darshan's fans, who were eagerly waiting for his star to entertain people from all age groups.

Darshan and Aradhana Ram in 'Kaatera'. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The continuous rush for *Kaatera* reminds me of the dream run of Rajkumar's *Bangarada Manushya* (1972) and *Shankar Guru* (1972)," adds Gundanna. S.T. Anand, owner of the iconic Prasanna theatre in Bengaluru, is all praise for *Kaatera*. "The film has collected around ₹75 lakh in three weeks in our theatre," he says.

Prasanna is Darshan's fortress, with *Roberrt, Kurukshetra,* and *Bulbul* enjoying a 100-day run in the theatre. "After a long time, *Kaatera* is one film that has had the maximum number of houseful shows in the Sate in its first two weeks," says Anand. Anupama, the film's main theatre in Gandhi Nagar, has enjoyed record collections.

Incidentally, Darshan's commercial success, *Roberrt,* revived the Covid-hit industry in 2021. *Roberrt* was the first big-star film to open with 100% occupancy. The actor, however, had a forgettable start to 2023, with his *Kranti* tanking at the box office. This result was followed by a lean phase in the Kannada film industry, with no film leaving a mark in the first six months. "The dull period spurred the closure of 25-30 theatres in C centres (below taluk level) of Karnataka. Among them, around 10-15 theatres are back operating thanks to the success of *Kaatera,*" says M.R. Rajaram, owner of Gayathri Talkies in Mysuru. Rajaram, also the vice-president of the Karnataka Film Exhibitors Federation, says *Kaatera* is a film with something for everyone to enjoy.

Set in the 1970s, *Kaatera* shows the oppression of desperate landlords on the helpless tillers. The film deals with the land reform acts implemented by former Chief Minister Devaraj Urs and condemns caste discrimination. Darshan plays a blacksmith from the oppressed group who takes on the zamindars.

"The film has many thrilling moments for a Darshan fan while it is content-oriented for the family crowd. Also, children have useful information to take away," says Rajaram. Along with Gayathri Talkies in Mysuru, Woodlands Theatre witnessed 16 houseful shows of *Kaatera* in the first three weeks.

Director-producer Guru Deshpande, who distributed *Kaatera* in the Kalyan-Karnataka region, says the film is all set to become Darshan's most successful movie. The last time single screens enjoyed such massive footfall was during Rishab Shetty's *Kantara* (2022). "To avoid long dull periods at theatres, stars must do at least two Kannada films a year. People, especially in C centres, watch only films in Kannada. If you don't consistently serve them big-ticket Kannada entertainers, they will watch Kannada-dubbed versions of other language movies," says Rajaram.

INBRIEF

'Centre should confer Bharat Ratna on D. Devaraj Urs'

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has demanded that Bharat Ratna should be conferred on former Chief Minister the late D. Devaraj Urs, an icon of the downtrodden communities in the State. Welcoming the decision to award Bharat Ratna posthumously to former Bihar Chief Minister Karpuri Thakur, he said that Devaraj Urs also deserves the same honour. "Kannadigas demand that Devaraj Urs be awarded the Bharat Ratna as he made an immense contribution to the welfare of Dalits in Karnataka. The Centre should consider the demand," he said in a statement.

Conference on advances in information technology held

Priyank Kharge, Minister for Information Technology, Bio Technology, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, said that the State consistently leads in the IT domain, harnessing the talent pool graduating from universities and engineering colleges here.

He was speaking after inaugurating an international conference on Advances in Information Technology, Communication and Energy Systems (AITCES-2024) at Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Bengaluru.

He acknowledged the State's commitment to providing support and infrastructure for establishing new IT-based industries.

State attracted global business proposals worth ₹23,000 crore at Davos: Patil

A delegation headed by the Minister of Large and Medium Industries held over 50 strategic meetings with global industry leaders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka delegation's presence at the recently concluded World Economic Forum (WEF) held at Davos, Switzerland, between January 15 and 19 yielded tangible results, said M.B. Patil, Minister of Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development.

During the course of the tour, the delegation was successful in attracting business investment proposals worth more than ₹23,000 crore to the State, he claimed on Wednesday.

The delegation headed by the Minister had over 50 strategic meetings with global industry leaders including Nestlé, HP, HCL, Volvo Group, IKEA, Sony, Microsoft, Hitachi, and others companies from several parts of the world.

Minister of Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development M.B. Patil addressing a press meet in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

According to Mr. Patil, Web Werks, a global call centre infrastructure firm, has pledged ₹20,000 crore to establish a massive 100 MW data centre in Bengaluru and the project will also generate jobs for 1,000 people. Microsoft has committed to contributing to digital skills development for semi-skilled urban and rural youth in the State while Hitachi has signed an MoU with a focus on promoting economic growth in rural areas.

Briefing the media at Vidhana Soudha, the Minister said many other foreign companies and business conglomerates have also evinced interest in exploring business opportunities and expansions in northern parts of Karnataka. "Initiatives are under way to foster industrial development in places like Vijayapura, Hubballi-Dharwad, Belagavi, and others beyond Bengaluru," he added.

> Initiatives are under way to foster industrial development in Vijayapura, Hubballi-Dharwad, Belagavi, and other places beyond Bengaluru.
>
> **M.B. PATIL**
> Minister of Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development

Mr. Patil further said Kochi-based Lulu would invest ₹300 crore to set up a new food processing unit in Vijayapura and invest further in expanding its existing unit in Kalaburagi. Bareilly-based BL Agro would establish a fully equipped food processing plant in Vijayapura. This plant would play a pivotal role in procuring, grading, sorting, and packaging local food products for domestic and global customers, he added.

According to Mr. Patil, the overall investment outlay includes another ₹3,000 crore from various enterprises mostly focused on smart city infrastructure, renewable energy solutions, data centers, and related sectors. In addition to these, AB InBev, a brewing company from Belgium, showed intent to invest ₹400 crore to expand its existing brewery in Mysuru. The company also has a Global Capability Centre at Whitefield with 5,000 people focused on digital capabilities , Big Data, AI and global supply chain expertise.

State govt. attempted to overreach SC order by changing members of Gokarna temple panel: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The new regime in the State, which took over administration after the elections held last year, had "attempted to overreach" the apex court's order by changing four members nominated to an overseeing committee appointed on the directions of the apex court to oversee the affairs of Gokarna Mahabaleshwara temple, said the High Court of Karnataka.

The State government could not have changed them without obtaining permission from the Supreme Court, the High Court said, while setting

aside government's July 12, 2023, notification of nominating new persons in place of persons appointed in 2021.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing the petitions filed by committee's four nominated members -Vedamoorthy Dattatreya Narayana Bhat Hiregange, Mahabala Upadhyaya, Muralidhar Prabhu, and Vidhwan Parameshwara Subramanya Bhat Markhande - and Sri Ramachandrapura Mutt.

Can't be meddled with

"If the constitution of the committee had to be meddled with, on the ground that there is a change in the government, the State government ought to have sought permission from the apex court...," the High Court said.

"The governments may come and go, the writ of Constitutional courts would run and run for all times to come... Change in government would not clothe the government with power to completely obliterate all the nominations made by the earlier government, by a stroke of pen...," Justice Nagaprasanna observed.

The High Court noted that the overseeing committee, headed by B.N. Srikrishna, was appointed on the directions of the apex court, which is adjudicating an appeal filed by the Mutt against High Court's 2018 judgment of setting aside the State government's 2008 denotification of the temple from the list of Muzrai temples.

Notes by CM and CS

The government had removed the petitioners from the committee based on a note issued by Chief Secretary on May 22, 2023, directing cancellation of all the nominations made to the posts of presidents, directors and members in various boards, corporations, and other bodies during the tenure of the previous government. The Chief Secretary had issued the note based on a written note issued by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on the same day. However, the High Court gave liberty to the government to approach the apex court if it wants to replace the members nominated to the committee earlier.

'Leadership crisis in BJP, JD(S) is prompting them to call Shettar'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that attempts by senior BJP leaders to woo former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar back to their party is indicative of a leadership crisis in the BJP.

Speaking to mediapersons at Periyapatna on Wednesday, Mr. Shivakumar said that several BJP leaders have met Mr. Shettar to cajole him to return to the party, which, he said, shows that the party has become weak.

"We made H.D. Kumaraswamy the Chief Minister of Karnataka to keep the BJP out of power. But he has joined the party that was instrumental in bringing down his government. This shows there is lack of leadership and confidence in the existing leadership in both the BJP and the JD(S)," said Mr. Shivakumar.

> Several BJP leaders have met Mr. Shettar to cajole him to return to the party, which shows that the party has become weak.
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR**
> Deputy Chief Minister

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the BJP is spreading rumours about Mr. Shettar rejoining the party. "Mr. Shettar has stated that there was no question of him rejoining the BJP. But the BJP is spreading rumours, and keeping the issue alive as the Opposition party is desperate," he added.

Purappemane residents get clearance to capture trouble-causing monkeys

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

Fed up with the trouble caused by monkeys, the residents of Purappemane in Sagar taluk have succeeded in getting permission from the Forest Department to capture monkeys in the village.

A team of monkey-catchers has reached the village and the operation is expected to start soon. The experts will attract the monkeys into cages through various tricks, including offering them food. The operation is expected to continue for weeks.

The growers of areca, coconut, paddy, and vegetables in Purappemane and neighbouring villages have seen an increasing number of monkeys (bonnet macaques). They cause a huge loss by damaging the yield on the farm. Besides that, they often enter farm houses.

Kiran S., a resident of the village, told *The Hindu* that in his areca plantation, he would lose at least two quintals of areca per acre because of monkeys. "Two quintals of areca are worth nearly ₹1 lakh, considering the prevailing price. Of the 60 coconut trees, I could harvest a handful. This is the magnitude of the loss we face," he said.

A team of experts have reached Purappemane in Sagar taluk with cages to capture trouble-causing monkeys. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Forest Department has set a standard operating procedure (SOP) to capture and translocate monkeys, following a direction issued by the High Court over a PIL in 2022.

The residents, through their Umamaheshwari Seva Sangha, approached the Purappemane Gram Panchayat for the capture and relocation of monkeys. They followed up on the application with the CEO of zilla panchayat. Later, it was sent to the Forest Department.

Based on the request, the Forest Department officials conducted a mahajar of the place and filed a report. The officers said they had found about 170 trouble-causing monkeys in the village. "Now we have clearance from the Chief Conservator of Forests to capture trouble-causing monkeys," said Mr. Kiran. The villagers had succeeded to capture around 150 monkeys three years ago also. The whole process involves spending. As the local bodies expressed their inability to contribute funds due to a shortage in allocations, the residents have offered to contribute their share. The money is collected from each resident considering the guntas of land he or she owns.

"We have collected around ₹2 lakh for the purpose. This amount is to be paid to the team that captures monkeys. They charge up to ₹500 per monkey," he said. Besides that, the villagers have to look after the team's stay in the village.

Officers are now working out plans for the translocation of captured monkeys. An officer, who wished not to be named, said the department was contemplating sterilisation of monkeys.

Do not present Budget on day of Council bypoll, BJP tells govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP has appealed to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to direct the State government to put off the date of presentation of the State Budget as it coincides with the byelection to the Legislative Council.

A delegation of BJP leaders comprising former Ministers Ashwath Narayan, V. Sunil Kumar, Byrathi Basavaraj, H. Halappa and Munirathna petitioned the Governor on Wednesday. In a memorandum submitted to the Governor, they said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had indicated to media that the State Budget would be presented on February 16. However, the byelection to the Legislative Council from Teachers' constituency too had been scheduled on the same day, they said.

They said presenting Budget on the day of polling for the Council polls would amount to breach of model code of conduct as the opportunity could be misused to lure voters. The delegation appealed to the Governor to direct the Chief Minister to put off the presentation of the Budget.

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
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TANGEDCO invites E-Tender for Procurement of Evening peak (18 to 24 hrs) and RTC power for a period from 01.04.2024 to 31.05.2024 from both Interstate and Intrastate generators on firm basis from CERC/TNERC approved Traders/ Generators. Bidding will be done as per the revised guidelines for short term procurement of power notified by the Ministry of Power vide resolution dated 30.03.2016 and as per amendments dated:21.02.2022 through e-Bidding portal (DEEP) only and subsequent amendments thereof are applicable to this tender specification. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.mstcecommerce.com, and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power **(www.powermin.nic.in)** and PFC Consulting Ltd **(www.pfcclindia.com).** Specification is available in TANGEDCO website and MSTC DEEP E-Bidding portal.

DIPR/415/Tender/2024 **Chief Engineer / PPP**

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ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-26716046
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: predurban@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: PRED/EE(BNG)-Goods-Tender/01/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23-01-2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಹೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999-2000 ಮತ್ತು ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಕಾಲಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ವಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸುವ ಗೂಡ್ಸ್ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಗೂಡ್ಸ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: PRED/EE(BNG)Goods-Tender/01/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: **23-01-2024 ರಂದು** ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ದಿನಾಂಕ: **25-01-2024 ರಿಂದ 08-02-2024 ರವರೆಗೆ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಗೂಡ್ಸ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.** ದಿನಾಂಕ: **09-02-2024 ರಂದು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.** ಟೆಂಡರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **080-26716046** ಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
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ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/3237/ಆಡ್ವರ್ಟೋ/2023-24

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
In cherished remembrance of our esteemed founder and guiding force

Late S.V.MONY
(06.10.1937 to 25.01.2019)

"To live in the hearts of those we leave behind is not to die."
- Thomas Campbell 1777-1844

We honor the legacy of your exemplary dedication and leadership. Half a decade has passed, yet your principles, unwavering guidance, and relentless work ethic continue to motivate and steer us. The company thrives on the trajectory you envisioned, thanks to your indomitable spirit.

Your resilient essence empowers us to elevate Srinidhi to the pinnacle you foresaw. Your visionary outlook propels us to strive for perpetual excellence. Your absence is not felt, for memories of you linger, serving as a constant source of inspiration.

With heartfelt gratitude,
The Family and Srinidhi Group

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, SRI. T. K. MURALEEDHARAN PILLAI s/o Late. D. Kesava Pillai & SMT. GEETHA KUMARI. C w/o Sri. T. K. Muraleedharan Pillai, residing at # 404, Primax Park 65, N. R Layout, Murugeshpalya, Bangalore – 560 017 are the absolute owners of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above said owner. All persons having any claim against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office **within 15 days from the date of publication hereof**, failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **Residential Site Nos. 46, 47, 48, 49**, Assessment No. 54, Khata 130, measuring **East to West 60 feet** and **North to South 80 feet**, totally measuring **4800 Sq.feet,** formed in **Sy. No. 54**, situated at Choodasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the:
East by: Private Property
West by: Site Nos. 45 & 50
North by: 25 feet wide Road
South by: 25 feet wide Road

Dated this 25th day of January 2024 at Bangalore

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UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD
Office of the Estate Officer, Krishi Nagar, Dharwad - 580005.

No: EO/UASD/SURPLUS FUND/2023-24 Date: 20-01-2024

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest is invited through e-Procurement Portal from the Public Sector Banks, RRBs & Scheduled Banks those having branches in Hubli-Dharwad City Limit for providing the competitive rate of interest on Short Term Deposits. The surplus Amount Approximately **Rs. 5,00,00,000/-** of General Provident Fund and **Rs. 2,50,00,000/-** of Krishimela Revolving Fund is to be parked in the form of short term fixed deposits in the banks. The details of the notification and conditions etc., can be had with bid document by visiting the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Schedule of Events: 1) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bids: **30-01-2024 uptp 17.00 Hrs. 2)** Date and Time for Opening of Bids: **01-02-2024 at 11.00 Hrs.**

The interested Banks need to register with the e-Procurement Portal for participating in the Tender. For more details, please Contact Phone No: **080-23010900,** The Banks are requested to get updated with corrigendum / addendum (if any) issued online at the following e-Procurement website in the entire tender process. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

The University reserves the right at its absolute discretion to proceed or cancel with the tender at any stage before awarding the work.

Sd/-
DIPR/Dharwad/714/Adverto/2023-24 ESTATE OFFICER

Fifty years of grit: The journey of one of Bengaluru's earliest 'start-ups'

The IT boom was still almost two decades away. Born in a basement on Richmond Road, ProcSys was much ahead of the times and one of the first Silicon Valley-model companies in India

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The ProcSys team during the golden jubilee celebration of the company. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It was the summer of '79. For M.S. Rangaraj, a Master's student at BITS Pilani then, it was his first week of internship at a Vadodara-based computer systems-making company.

"It was my second or third day. At lunch there was a lot of commotion and animated conversations," Mr. Rangaraj recollects. On enquiring about it, he came to know that it was the excitement around a huge tender that everyone was sure the company would secure.

Two days later, Mr. Rangaraj came across the same group of people, this time with sullen faces.

"We lost the bid to a tiny little never-heard-before company called PSI from Bangalore," one of them told him.

It was the first time Mr. Rangaraj too heard of PSI or Processor Systems India, but it piqued his curiosity.

Known today as ProcSys, it was one of the first IT companies born in what is today's IT capital, Bengaluru.

The company, which celebrated its 50th anniversary recently on December 29, 2023, was founded by Dr. V.K. Ravindran, his brother Dr. V.K. Harindran and Mr. Ravindran's friend from Stanford University Vinay Deshpande, in 1973.

The IT boom was still almost two decades away. The term 'start-up' was yet to become popular. But, if to go by the words of the current and former staff at the company, ProcSys was much ahead of the times and one of the first Silicon Valley-model companies in India; In Gen-Z terms, the 'OG' start-up.

A history of many firsts

Born in the basement of the Classic Building on Richmond Road, PSI envisioned popularising computers with microprocessors.

It started by providing modern computers to Indian industries. A relatively new concept to the Indian market, securing funds as well as clients was not easy.

People refused to believe that microprocessors could be used to run big applications like data centres.

But it was around the same time that IBM exited the country.

This, combined with the strict restrictions to establish IT companies in the country then, worked to PSI's advantage.

In the years that followed the company bagged several 'firsts' to its credit. It was the first Indian tech company to provide products and support to clients in the U.S., Japan and other countries, the first to create application-based systems in India for different industries, and one of the earliest to bring mini-computers to India.

Before the wave

Mr. Rangaraj later joined ProcSys in 1980. He reminisces how he was fascinated to hear the description of the company from others. "I was told they were no small company, that they worked out of a basement, were U.S. returnees, worked in their shorts, and there was music being played all the time. I heard that there was no project that this company would turn away. The young engineer in me was excited and I made up my mind that this is where I was going to work."

Walking into PSI's R&D centre on Primrose Road for his job interview, he was surprised to the interviewers seated on the floor and reviewing a systems design. Three walls of the rooms were covered with printouts of the design.

Mr. Rangaraj, who worked at PSI for eight years, describes the time as life-changing as he got to work on dream projects including a computer-based education system funded by the Japanese government.

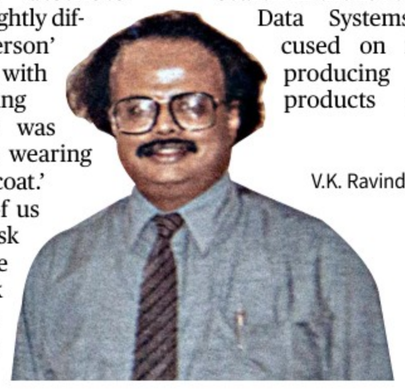
The job roles at the company were fluid similar to what is seen at young startups today. Kalyana Rao, who joined PSI in 1977 as a young engineer, remembers how he donned several caps - from business development to client meetings to proof-of-concept projects to engineering - during his stint with the company.

"Technology changes so often in our field. But to my advantage, what I learned at PSI was so advanced that I never had to read anything new after that. Whether it was operating systems, databases, communication protocols, embedded systems, or application software... we had done all of those. Technology shifts never bothered me because at PSI we were having technology shifts every month," he says.

Working with visionary

Dr. V.K Ravindran, one of the co-founders of the company, was its backbone and brain.

Mr Rao describes him as 'a slightly different person' and 'a man with funny-looking hair, who was rarely seen wearing a jacket or coat.'


V.K. Ravindran

"Some of us used to ask him why he came back from Stanford. He would answer that the whole IT spend of India was less than the IT spend of a small country like Norway or Sweden, but in the future when India grows, the Indian IT spending will be far higher. He wanted to be part of that future."

"He would say don't worry about the whole country, earn enough export dollars so that we can at least pay for all of Bangalore's petrol by our exports. He never said he wanted to be a billion-dollar company, and people were lifted by his kind of vision."

A boon and a bane

In the 1980s, PSI Data Systems was formed as a separate entity. If PSI focused primarily on design and research in the 1970s, PSI Data Systems focused on mass-producing the products developed by the design system. The latter went public in 1985 and was later taken over by Groupe Bull of France in the 1990s. PSI, on the other hand, got rebranded and became ProcSys.

The basement office where ProcSys was born was recently renovated.

The golden jubilee celebration.

Dr. Ravindran's dream in the '70s then sounded like a 'fairytale told on a moonlit night' for Mr. Rao.

But proving him right, India saw an IT boom in the years that followed. The IT industry in the country today is close to 250 billion dollars.

While PSI continued to add behemoths from across the globe to its roster of clients, unlike several of the younger start-ups that emerged in the 2000s, ProcSys did not become a billion-dollar company.

What could have wrong?

Several factors played a role, one of them being the timing, says Mr. Rao.

"When you are ahead of time, sometimes you also have to pay a price," he says. PSI being a pioneer had to create a new market on its own which proved expensive.

Yet another factor was the dearth of private capital. India is home to 111 unicorns today, all plush with Venture Capital (VC) money, but that was not the case then. For PSI all the money had to either come from the cash flow or from banks, at high interest rates.

"The third factor was the dollar to rupee arbitrage. The dollar was only seven rupees in the 80s. So, the arbitrage advantage of using the currency was also not there," says Mr. Rao, adding that yet another factor was the high import duties.

And then, in 1988, Dr. Ravindran passed away, which Mr. Rao believes was the most telling factor.

A man of ideas

"His vision was unlike anybody else's," says Mr. Rao, recollecting an incident.

The customers of a company that Dr. Ravindran visited wanted to know when their products would be shipped from the factory.

But accessing that information was no mean task then, and involved booking several trunk calls to the factory, component suppliers and so on.

"Seeing this Ravi came back and told us 'let's make an acoustic coupler.' We had never heard of such a thing before. What he suggested was what we call a modem today," Mr. Rao says.

Slow and steady

"At that time, there was no acoustic coupler anywhere in the world. To make that product was no joke. You had to make the mould, the plastic, and so on. Nor could we get it done cheaply in Taiwan or China then. Ravi always underestimated the cost of manufacturing. He was hesitant to take up projects that were purely software. But his ideas were unbelievable. Had he lived a little longer, he would have been talked about as much as some of the giants of the world computing scene today."

The company which initially focused on telecom and data communications works, diversified into industrial communication, industrial healthcare, and IoT in the 2000s.

Hemanth Kumar K.R., vice president - engineering at ProcSys , has been with the group for a long 38 years, and notes that the period up to 2005 was extremely good for the company.

In 2007, the global meltdown affected the company and business became slow. Nevertheless, no employee was laid off.

"We have not laid off any employees for financial reasons until now. It's been part of our principles. There were times when we had to trim down some salaries, but we didn't let anyone go."

"Since 2010 we have been growing steadily. We have remained small and beautiful without trying to grow too fast because our focus has not been on resource augmentation by bringing in more and more people.

"It's not about body shopping for us, we are into complete product development for the customer," says Mr. Kumar.

According to Shreedhar. M.R., vice president - embedded software services at ProcSys, the company has been working on high-end technology, high-end data and high-speed products for clients outside as well as inside India.

The list includes PSUs like BHEL.

"Since 2010 we have been working in the IoT space and over the last few years, on some of the AI-ML projects too," says Mr. Sreedhar.

Going forward the company would like to speed up a little and grow from a 100+ team to around 300 in the next three to four years, says Mr. Kumar.

"We would also like to do more work in AI, green technologies, autonomous vehicles and so on," he adds.

Secondary deals show 80% drop in 2023, Fintech emerges the winner: PrivateCircle Research

The study by the Bengaluru-based market intelligence firm also showed a 62% year-on-year drop in startup funding in 2023

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

During the peak 2021 funding peak, e-commerce saw the highest number of secondary deals followed by Fintech, and Media & Entertainment among others. GETTY IMAGES

Fintech saw the highest number of secondary transactions in both 2023 and 2022, according to the Indian Start-ups Deal Report-2023 by Bengaluru-based market intelligence technology company PrivateCircle.

A secondary round takes place when an existing shareholder sells their shares to a third party.

Besides Fintech, SaaS (software as a service) also saw a high frequency of secondary deals in 2023 and 2022.

During the peak 2021 funding peak, e-commerce saw the highest number of secondary deals followed by Fintech, and Media & Entertainment among others.

Commenting on the findings, Dr. Murali Loganathan, Director of Research, PrivateCircle said, "We can see fintech coming up in all three years, showing the sector's ability to provide exits to investors. SaaS is also common in both 2022 and 2023 showing the sector's resilience in providing exits to investors."

The analysis was done by tracking 252 secondary deals at 117 start-ups valued at $500 million or above in the last three years.

According to the study, in 2023 the startups saw an 80 per cent drop in the number of secondary deals compared to the previous year. The research firm tracked 13 secondary rounds across the 117 startups in 2023. The numbers were 84 and 155 in the years 2022 and 2021 respectively.

Primary funding dropped 62%

The study also showed a 62% year-on-year (YOY) drop in start-up funding in 2023.

About ₹67,000 crores was raised in start-up funding in 2023 as compared to around ₹180,000 crores in 2022 and ₹242,000 crores raised in 2021 which was a peak year in Indian startup ecosystem.

The year 2023 witnessed a six-year low for the start-up ecosystem, as the funding numbers dropped below that of 2018.

There was a similar YOY drop of 72% in 2023 deal counts as compared to previous years. Primary funding rounds stood at 1,444 deals in 2023 as compared to 5000 odd deals in 2022.

Secondary and debt funding rounds were omitted for the analysis on primary rounds and only Indian companies have been considered, said a release from PrivateCircle.

"Even though funding rounds have slowed down, venture capital funds are sitting on ample dry powder. Funds usually have a 10-year cycle for investments, and they can only raise capital in the first three. Given that the cautious approach of investors has now continued for almost two years, we expect to see VC activity pick up pace later this year," Dr. Loganathan said.

Lenskart raised biggest round

Mega $100 mn deals were definitely hard to come by in 2023 and so was the emergence of new unicorns. But the companies with strong business fundamentals did manage to raise big funding rounds, said the report.

Lenskart raised the biggest funding round of $500 million from Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. This was followed by the likes of DMI Finance, PhonePe, CleanMax, Udaan, and others.

The $600 million fundraise of Flipkart was excluded from the study as the round was led by its parent entity Walmart.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 25, 1974

Karnataka Govt. to Take Over Power Firms

Bangalore, January 24: The Karnataka State Cabinet decided to-day to introduce a Bill to take over private electricity undertakings in the State.

There are seven private electricity undertakings operating in the State, all in the integrated areas.

With the importance given to rural electrification, it has been found that the growing demand in rural parts in the licensed areas may not be adequately met by the licensees and the interest of consumers would be better served by the Karnataka Electricity Board with the resources at its disposal.

Lack of Mobility in Health Care Systems

Manipal, Jan. 24: In 1947 there were 27 medical colleges with an annual enlistment of 2,000 students. Today, there are 102 medical colleges with 13,200 students on their rolls. In spite of this proliferation in the number of medical colleges, there has not been any mobility in the health care delivery system," said Dr. Jagannatha Reddy, Vice Chancellor of Sri Venkateshwara University, while delivering the inaugural address of the XIII Annual conference of the India Association for the Advancement of Medical Education held at Manipal from January 18 to January 20.

CITYBEATS

Details and design

DesignUru is an initiative promoting design experiences in public spaces. Structured as a three-day interactive exhibition, DesignUru showcases how elements of design can positively engage communities in everyday life. Check out their insta handle @designuru4.0 for a list of their scheduled events and talks at the venue.

On till January 25 at Rangoli Art Centre, MG Road. Entry free.

Raise a toast

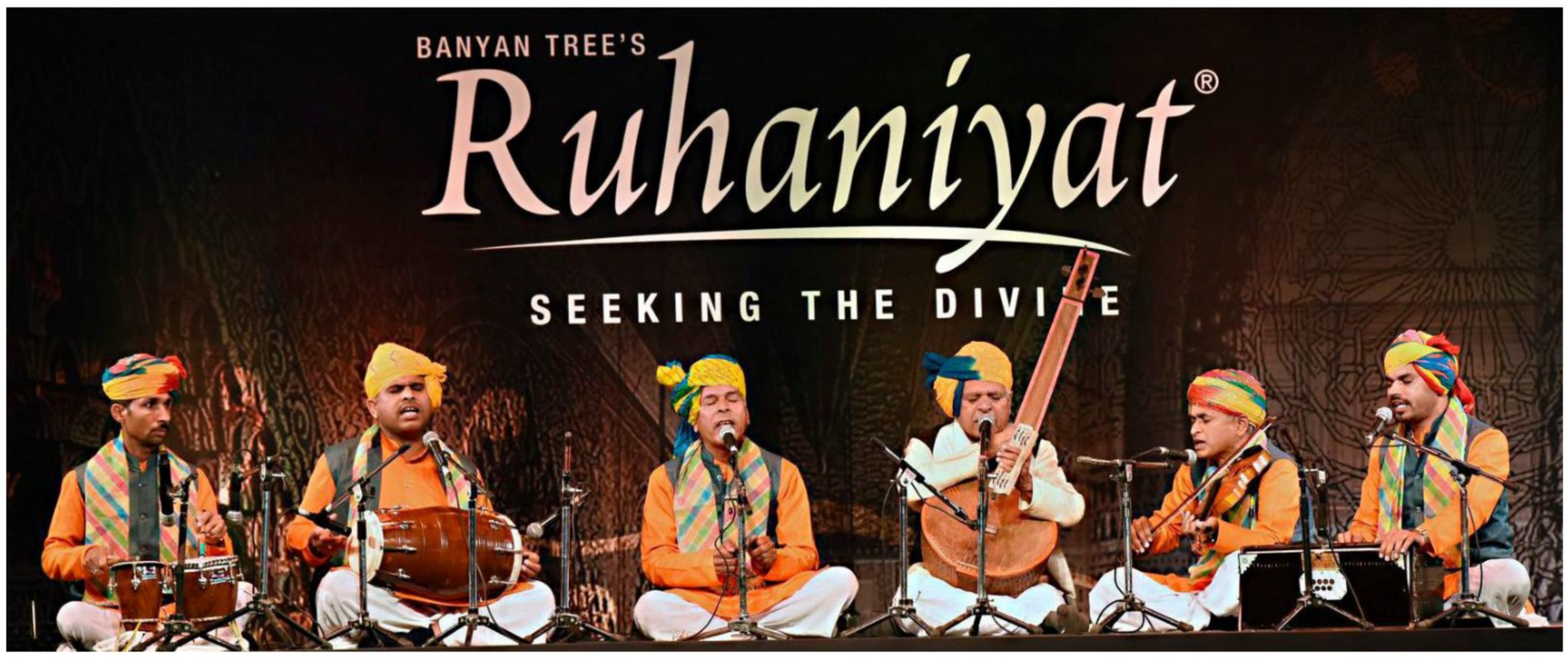
This Republic Day, Amiel Gourmet celebrates the spirit of freedom with a special menu. Banana leaf baked ratatouille brings the best of both worlds with roasted vegetables, while the nigella seed taco with *rajma* is a savoury non-vegetarian option. The onion and coriander pilaf, and carrot *halwa* macarons are other choices to explore.

Cost for two ₹1500 plus tax. From January 26-28. Call 8884441259 / 8884443650 for details

Fantasy reigns

Let your imagination soar with *Shakespeare's Wife* a solo performance by Laxmi Chandrashekar. Marking her silver jubilee on stage, the veteran of one-woman shows, artist and translator Laxmi will present *Shakespeare's Wife Shakespeareana Shrimati)* in both Kannada and English for the first time.

At Bangalore International Centre on January 25. From 7 pm, entry free



All world charm

The 23rd edition of Ruhaniyat, the flagship festival of Banyan Tree Events, will take place in eight Indian cities

Praveen Sudevan

TCS Ruhaniyat, the flagship music festival of Banyan Tree Events, will return to Bengaluru on January 26. This year marks the 23rd edition of this soulful festival, bringing diverse music and spiritual expressions to seven Indian cities apart from Bengaluru: Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Pune.

New faces join the party this year, with artists from Brazil, Scotland, Indonesia, South Africa, and Bangladesh gracing the stage for the first time. Old favorites like Taiwan, Egypt, Turkey, and the Republic of Tuva return with their unique traditions.

From India, discover the legend of Mhasu from Uttarakhand, the rhythms of Thaali Sur from Maharashtra, the Telangana beats of Mandulodu, and a special production of Baba Bulleh Shah's compositions.

Immerse yourself in the blissful Tamil mysticism of Sivasri Skandaprasad & Group, see the world through Kabir's eyes with Prahlad Singh Tipanya & Group, unlock Javanese peace with Ida Lala (Indonesia), experience Ubuntu, the spirit of togetherness, with Dumza Maswana & Volley Nchabeleng (South Africa), and feel the feminine force with Nandesh Umap & Group showcasing Gondhal, Jagar, and Bharud of Maharashtra. Be captivated by the soul-stirring Qawwali of the Warsi Brothers.

Going global The Ruhaniyat will see performances by artists such as (clockwise from top) the Warsi Brothers, Volley Nchabeleng and Sivasri. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"When it comes to music or spirituality, *bhakti* and surrender to the supreme is the primary experience. Language, gender, sect or any man-made differences is never a barrier," says Sivasri, whose concert will be based on the Tamil poems (between first to the eighth century AD) written by the Nayanmars and Azhwars of the Saiva and Vaishnava traditions.

Indian classical music, she adds, is no more restricted to a niche audience. "The younger generation is exploring and spreading it to newer crowds. Typical *kutcheri sahityas* are becoming part of rap and pop concerts, which no one would have thought of two or three decades ago. It's a positive trend. Even if new genres pop up every now and then, the classical form will always find a way to be relevant."

Sivasri will be trying something new for this year's concert. "It is going to be exclusively Tamil hymns. Especially the *thevarams* will be set to specific tune," she says, "Though we have the liberty to experiment with different *ragas* and *talas* on how we interpret those divine poems, I will be presenting them in the traditional way. I'm sure the depth of the *sahitya* will transcend the listeners to a mystic world."

Ruhaniyat is more than music; it's a movement. It tries to revive lost art forms, discovers hidden talents, and builds bridges across cultures. Each city boasts unique collaborations, fusing traditions and breaking down boundaries.

The four-hour concert will take place at Jayamahal Palace Hotel on January 26, 6 pm onwards. For more information visit ruhaniyat.com. Tickets on bookmyshow.com.

Holding a mirror to the muse

Ruth Dhanaraj

Women have played the muse ever since mankind has expressed their creativity whether in the form of art, poetry, sculpture or literature. However, artist Amit Srivastava feels contemporary women have not been given enough representation and so, his ongoing exhibition Unfettered is an attempt to address that lack.

"This theme has been with me for the longest time, a realisation that not much work has been done on urban women," says Amit Srivastava. "Indian women have stepped out of the traditional domain and have made a name for themselves. Then, they return home after a day at work and attend to the welfare of their household," adds the Delhi-based artist.

"I saw this in my mother who was a school teacher. I wanted to show today's woman unwinding and relaxing, reflecting on the journey, in Unfettered," says Amit, adding that a lot of his earlier work was modelled on his parents.

In Unfettered, for the most part, the 30-odd canvases on display depict women spending quality time by themselves, for themselves. Amit, whose preferred medium is oil on canvas, favours the works of Old Masters; the tone of light and shadow play an important role in his works too.

An ode to owning their space (clockwise from top) On a Warm Note, artist Amit Srivastava with The Sizzler, and Naina. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"I enjoyed colouring as a child, but I was also interested in engineering and art took a backseat. However, in my final year of IIT, I stated drawing again. Soon, I was exploring the works of local artists and learning from them."

Trips to the Louvre in Paris and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, attracted him to the works of Old Masters. "I had this desire to draw and paint like them. When I returned, I found teachers who had worked abroad and whose work I liked and began to learn from them over the weekends."

Amit recalls an evening in 2008, when he started painting a Still Life (inanimate subjects) at around 5pm. "When I completed that piece and laid down my brush, I noticed it was four in the morning. I was amazed as I hadn't felt the need to take a break or eat something. That day I realised that perhaps art was what I should be doing in my life."

He eventually enrolled at The Ryder Studio, founded by artist Anthony Ryder in Santa Fe, New Mexico. "I enjoyed creating Still Life paintings; however, sessions there showcased the importance of studying live objects as well as their composition and design."

Amit says, "All my work for Unfettered feature figurative art and portraits as it is my strength, though Still Life is what I love to do."

He says this theme captures contemporary women and each of his works is titled after the emotion it evoked. He says the piece Naina was modelled after a dancer who was very expressive with her eyes. "She was pleasantly surprised with the title as that was a nickname her grandmother would use for her," he says.

The majority of artworks created for this series took a year and a half to be completed and while most are oil on canvas, a few are conte, charcoal and graphite on paper.

Unfettered: Unleashing the Spirit Within by Amit Srivastava will be on display at Gallery Time and Space till January 28.

Poetry in motion Papia Chakraborty in Metamorphosis. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shilpa Anandraj

Papia Chakraborty is an independent contemporary dancer from Kolkata. She learnt Kathak for 15 years, first from Mitul Sengupta and later from Rajendra Gangani. Wanting to explore movements without a boundary, Papia switched to contemporary dance a few years ago. It is these experimental creations and movements, that pushed her to collaborate with Surendra Tekale from Bengaluru. Now the duo will present Metamorphosis, a contemporary duet dance presentation this weekend in our city.

Though Papia lives in Kolkata, she has performed in Bengaluru many times. "Metamorphosis is my first full-length collaborative work in Bengaluru," says the dancer, amidst dance rehearsals from her studio Kolkata.

Papia conceptualised the dance. "I co-choreographed it with Surendra. While I come from a pure dance background, he comes with a background in theatre and modern dance. Our body of work is different, yet we have blended our thoughts and perspectives to create Metamorphosis," says Papia, who has a diploma in Movement Art from Rhythmosaic Dance Institute, Kolkata and has done a certified course in choreographic approach from Gati Dance Forum, New Delhi.

"My choreographies are inspired by my immediate surroundings and addresses the issues of gender identity, human emotions and the climate change crisis," says the full-time dancer.

Talking about Metamorphosis, Papia says, "It looks closely into what happens when one goes through the process of transformation. For instance, what does a caterpillar go through on its journey from the cocoon to becoming a butterfly? The dance also seeks answers to who the person really is. Is it their emotions, personal beliefs and values? Or is it solely defined by social standards imposed upon them?"

"This is a non-verbal presentation, where we work with varied patterns that are created with movement. These patterns show that there is a formula in society that we mindlessly follow at times."

At some point, Papia says someone thinks of breaking this monotony. "The shift from known to unknown patterns, is what triggered the movement for Metamorphosis. The dance loop is left open rather than the dancers narrating a story with a story that has an end."

Metamorphosis is at Shoonya on January 28, at 6.30pm. Tickets are on Insider and Shoonya's homepage.

INBRIEF

South India will spring a surprise in LS poll: Bommai

Senior BJP leader Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday predicted "surprising results" from South India in favour of the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. Mr. Bommai claimed that there is a 'Modi wave' in the country as the whole country was eager to see Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister again. "The whole country looks at Mr. Modi with a lot of confidence. There is a pro-BJP and pro-Modi wave from Kashmir to Kanniyakumari," the former Karnataka Chief Minister said in Bengaluru.

Will Deve Gowda, who is close to PM, get Centre's nod for Mekedatu?: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday asserted that the Mekedatu project would materialise during the Congress tenure.

Mr. Shivakumar was speaking after inaugurating a project at Mutthinamulasoge to replenish 150 lakes of 79 villages in Periyapatna taluk.

Mr. Shivakumar said that revenue officials of Mandya, Chamarajanagar, Mysuru, and Bengaluru Rural districts had been instructed to hand over land to those who would lose their land to Mekedatu project. Forest Department officials would start the tree census and revenue land would be transferred to the department in lieu of submergence of forests, he added.

Balancing reservoir

The balancing reservoir project mooted to meet the drinking water requirements of Bengaluru – besides impounding water to meet Tamil Nadu's requirements – has been opposed by the lower riparian State and is yet to gain traction. Mr. Shivakumar, incidentally, had taken out a padayatra a few years ago to drum up support for Mekedatu project.

Secure release of T.N. fishermen from Sri Lankan custody: Stalin

In a letter to Jaishankar, he says the disturbing trend of Tamil Nadu fishermen being arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy had created an 'alarming situation' that required immediate attention

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Wednesday urged External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to secure the release of six fishermen from Ramanathapuram, who were arrested recently by the Sri Lankan Navy. He also reiterated that the fishermen issue between India and Sri Lanka be sorted out diplomatically.

Mr. Stalin said in a letter to Mr. Jaishankar that the recent disturbing trend of Tamil Nadu fishermen being arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy had created an "alarming situation" that required immediate attention.

"These arrests not only undermine the traditional fishing rights of the Tamil community but also contribute to a climate of fear and uncertainty among the fishing population. The arrests jeopardise these rights, threatening the cultural and economic fabric of the Tamil fishing communities," he said.

> These arrests not only undermine the traditional fishing rights of the Tamil community but also contribute to a climate of fear and uncertainty among the fishing population.
>
> **M.K. STALIN,**
> Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

In the light of these concerns, there was a "pressing need" for diplomatic efforts to handle the situation, Mr. Stalin said in the letter, a copy of which was released to the media.

The Joint Working Group, which dealt with the issues between the Indian fishermen and the Sri Lankan Navy, could provide a constructive platform for talks, he said.

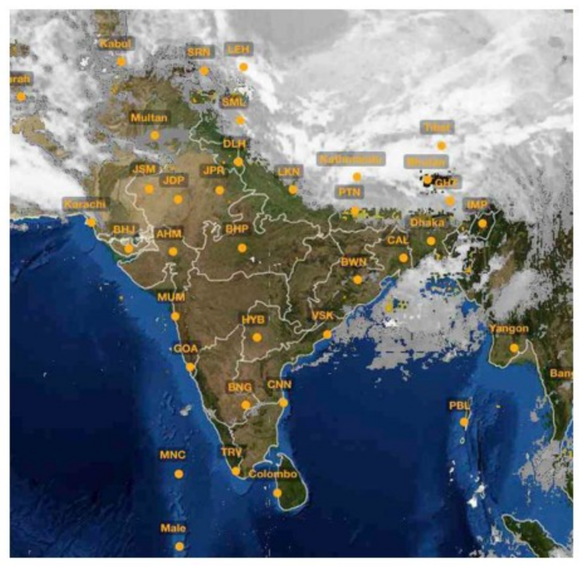
He requested Mr. Jaishankar to take steps to convene a meeting of the Joint Working Group to sort out the long-pending issues so that the arrest of innocent fishermen could be avoided.

Warm welcome

Arun Yogiraj, sculptor of Ram Lalla idol installed at Ayodhya temple, arriving at KIA in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Odisha. Cold wave conditions likely in some parts over Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. Cold day conditions likely in isolated pockets over Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	22.2	10.2	Kozhikode	—	34.6	25.3
Ahmedabad	—	29.0	12.7	Kurnool	—	34.4	22.5
Aizawl	—	23.5	8.0	Lucknow	—	17.4	6.5
Allahabad	—	16.1	7.0	Madurai	—	33.0	21.6
Bengaluru	—	30.0	17.9	Mangaluru	—	30.8	21.3
Bhopal	—	24.0	7.4	Mumbai	—	31.2	15.2
Bhubaneswar	1	21.7	16.0	Mysuru	—	31.2	17.0
Chandigarh	—	9.7	3.3	New Delhi	—	18.3	8.3
Chennai	—	31.7	22.6	Patna	—	13.9	10.0
Coimbatore	—	32.0	21.6	Port Blair	—	30.5	24.5
Dehradun	—	22.0	4.3	Puducherry	—	31.2	22.2
Gangtok	0.6	11.4	4.8	Pune	—	29.1	9.7
Goa	—	30.4	18.4	Raipur	3	23.0	14.8
Guwahati	—	25.0	10.6	Ranchi	—	22.3	11.5
Hubballi	—	33.0	14.0	Shillong	—	14.1	4.3
Hyderabad	—	31.2	20.8	Shimla	—	15.0	4.8
Imphal	—	22.3	7.0	Srinagar	—	11.6	-5.3
Jaipur	—	23.0	9.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.7	23.9
Kochi	10	32.0	24.8	Tiruchi	—	32.7	21.0
Kohima	—	17.0	4.0	Vijayawada	—	31.7	21.8
Kolkata	—	22.2	15.8	Visakhapatnam	—	28.5	22.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	14	.13	219	118	
Bengaluru	.10	.16	.26	104	132	
Chennai	1	.43	.62	337	246	
Delhi	.13	229	101	432	441	
Hyderabad	.16	.17	.80	71	72	
Kolkata	.13	.94	.28	318	196	
Lucknow	7	.80	.45	121	116	
Mumbai	.15	.29	.69	227	174	
Pune	105	152	106	91	92	
Visakhapatnam	.11	.42	.38	123	137	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 409 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gangtok, Sikkim recorded a healthy AQI score of 35

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore – 560009

No: EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND No-09/TS/2023-24 Date: 23.01.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No:09/2023-24
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Tender is invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D, Bangalore Rural, under different head of account. The work details can be obtained from the KPPP Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before: **31.01.2024 upto 5.00 PM.** Further details contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore

DIPR/CP/3226/SPAN/2023-24

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
CHENNAI DIVISION - ENHM WING (MECHANTCAL BRANCH)
GEM Bid No.GEM/2024/B/4508401 dated 19.01.2024

Divisional Railway Manager/EnHM Wing/Mechanical Branch/ Chennai Division, Chennai 600003, for and on behalf of President of India invites ONLINE Tenders for the following work as per tender notice given in the e-tender GEM portal. The tenderer(s) / contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for outsourcing of Comprehensive Cleaning work at DRM Building NGO Annexe for a period of 02 year (626 days Excluding Sundays) and Adam's Building for a period of 730 days in Chennai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender through GEM portal and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of tender form & EMD can also be paid online in GeM portal as per bid document.

Description	Comprehensive Cleaning work at DRM Building NGO Annexe for a period of 02 year (626 days Excluding Sundays) and Adam's Building for a period of 730 days in Chennai Division
Location	DRM Building NGO Annexe and Adam's Building, Park Town, Chennai . 600 003
Value	Rs.1,56,03,911/-
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.2,52,820/-
Period of completion	730 days

Tender closing date and time: 09.02.2O24 at 16.00 hrs.
Tender opening date and time: 09.02.2O24 at 16.30 hrs.
Details of value of tender, tender form cost, EMD are given in GEM e-portal. For bid submission please refer to GeM web portal.

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Government of Kerala
TENDER
FOREST & WILD LIFE DEPARTMENT

Window No:iprd 24/e 29 •Tender No. KFDDO/30499/2022/R• Divisional Forest Officer, Timber Sales Division, Kozhikode, vanasree, Mathottam, Arakinar P.O-673028, Phone-0495-2414702 • E-auction sales of timber on 03/02,12/02,19/02,27/02/2024 stacked at Chaliyam, Parappa, Kannoth Kuppady & Baveli dumping depots Kozhikode • PAC: 7 Crore.
Full details on Tender Advertisement apperaed above are exhibited before the Office from which the tender originates.For Details on all Tenders above please visit notice board.kerala.gov.in/tender.Please put in search the Window No for getting the advertisement of your choice. **R.O. No. 15/G4/2024/PRD.**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(Project Organisation)
Tender Notice

S.No	Description of Work	Item No. 1
1	Name of the Work	Provision of signalling arrangements in connection with replacement of existing panel interlocking by Electronic Inter locking (Centralized) (Indoor & Outdoor) at Chitteri (CTRE), Mahendravadi (MDVE), Sholinghur (SHU) Sevur (SVUR) in AJJ-JTJ section of Chennai division of Southern Railway.
2	E-Tender Notice No.	Proj_MS_El_4stn_24_01 Dt: 20.01.2024
3	Estimated cost of the work	Rs 45,83,81,709.17/-
4	Bidding System	Two Packet system (Open Tender)
5	Earnest money (EMD)	Rs 24,41,900/-
6	Completion period	12 Months
7	Last date and Time of online submission (closing) of tender document	11:00 hrs of 12.02.2024
8	Website address, time & Date from which tender documents will be available	On Indian Railway Website i.e, www.ireps.gov.in from 20.01.2024
9	Validity of offers	90 days from date of tender opening

Note: The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued can be accessed through (www.ireps.gov.in).

Dy.Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Project, Chetpet, Chennai - 31.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE,
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION, Construction & Maintenance Group
ISRO -TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC) Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058, Fax: 080-28094180, Ph:080-28094184, 4196, 4541, 4542

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of President of India, **Item rate E-Tenders** are invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following work .

NIT No.	**ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/ETN-83/2023-24/ Dated: 23.01.2024**	**ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/ETN-84/2023-24/ Dated: 23.01.2024**
Name of work	**Providing false ceiling and acoustic wall panelling to Aryabhata Hall at SCC Campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru.(Civil Interior Works)**	**Refurbishment and storage works for DD-GSNA Office, Cubicles, storage units for CCFG requirements at SCC & MOX Campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru.(Civil Interior Works)**
Estimated Cost put to Tender	**Rs.24.86 Lakhs**	**Rs. 24.00 Lakhs**
Tender Document Details	**E-Tender**	**E-Tender**
Period of completion	**02 (Two) Months**	**03 (Three) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 14.30 hrs on 25.01.2024 to 16.30 hrs on 08.02.2024**	**From 14.30 hrs on 25.01.2024 to 16.30 hrs on 08.02.2024**
Bid Clarification	**From 15.30 hrs on 25.01.2024 to 16.30 hrs 09.02.2024**	**From 15.30 hrs on 25.01.2024 to 16.30 hrs 09.02.2024**
Last date of reply to Bid Clarifications	**Upto 16.30 hrs on 12.02.2024**	**Upto 16.30 hrs on 12.02.2024**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**Upto 14.30 hrs on 13.02.2024**	**Upto 14.30 hrs on 13.02.2024**
Due date and time of opening of tenders	**11:30 Hrs onwards on 14.02.2024**	**11:30 Hrs onwards 14.02.2024**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 49,720/-**	**Rs. 48,000/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** for eligibility criteria and other details in website **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

BUSINESS CONNECT A Business Initiative

Navarathan Jewellers, Bengaluru unveils the gold crafted " The Ram Mandir"

Since 1954, Navarathan has delighted the connoisseurs of India with breathtaking designs, intricate craftmanship and ancient techniques, presenting a wealth of gold, diamond and platinum jewellery to adorn the modern day women. Navarathan's specializes in integrating temple jewellery designs into modern settings that are contemporary marvels - from meenakari, kundan and polki styles. Sir M Gowtham Chand Bafna, the MD of Navarathan Jewellers laid the ground work for the integration of antique temple jewellery designs into modern settings that are style statements in themselves. They craft temple jewellery of all kinds with unwavering precision and passion. With 70 years of legacy, Unveiling their tribute to history and devotion - "The Ram Mandir" crafted in gold inspired by the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, their masterpiece stands as a beacon of faith and cultural resonance. It symbolizes the sanctity of the moment. Navarathan Jewellers commemorates this historic event with a timeless piece theat mirrors the spirit of unity and reverence. "The Ram Mandir" crafted in 22k gold is 1793 grams and studded with precious stones. This exquisite piece required a dedicated year of craftmanship to bring its intricate details and timeless beauty to fruition.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds - Relaunch of its store in HSR Layout, Bengaluru

Malabar Gold & Diamonds revamped store promises a world-class jewellery shopping experience, boasting more space and more collections. Smt Dr. Divya Chandradhara (CEO of BIO-AG ILE Theraputics Pvt Ltd), Smt Nisha rai, CEO of Nisha group of companies,Smt. Advoacte Chitra Vijay MD, KHY service legal consultant and managing committee member relaunched the store along with Karnataka Regional Head Mr .Filsor Babu and other Management team members. As part of the inaugural offer, the store offer customers free silver coins with every purchase, valid till 28th Jan 2024. The revamped store, now expanded with an additional floor (second floor), features popular sub-brands of Malabar, like Mine Diamonds, Era Uncut Diamonds, Divine Heritage Jewellery, Ethnix Handcrafted Jewellery, Precia Gemstone Jewellery, Viraaz Polki Jewellery and vast and unique collections under each of these brands. From traditional and contemporary to lightweight and every day, customers can find picks for any occasion. Also, with Malabar s exclusive bridal collections, customers can delve into elegant bridal pieces meticulously crafted to make weddings truly unforgettable. By offering an extensive range of jewellery pieces at the best prices and fair making charges, the store aims to be the city's most sought-after jewellery shopping destination.

Tanishq presents 'Festival of Diamonds'

Tanishq, India's largest jewellery retail brand from the house of Tata, extends its heartfelt invitation to celebrate life's little moments with the enchanting Festival of Diamonds. Breaking away from the wait for significant milestones, Tanishq says to embrace the magic now, adorne with the timeless allure of diamonds. The Festival of Diamonds displays an extensive range of diamond jewellery pieces, the perfect addition to your jewellery trousseau box. It is a celebration of precious moments and joy found every day, amplified by the sparkle of exquisite diamonds. Discover countless little wins that deserve celebration, often overlooked in the hustle of life. Explore a delightful array of curated diamond earrings, bracelets, neckwear, finger rings, and more await. Tanishq believes that every small moment is deserving of celebration with a diamond. Celebrate with Tanishq, where diamonds illuminate the beauty of life's grand story. It has been synonymous with superior craftsmanship, exclusive designs and guaranteed product quality for over two decades. It has built for itself the envious reputation of being the only jewellery brand in the country that strives to understand the Indian woman and provide her with jewellery that meets her traditional and contemporary aspirations and desires. Attesting to this commitment towards excellence, in 2019, Tanishq has been awarded the title of The Most Trusted Jewellery Brand in India by the Trust Research Advisory. All stores are equipped with the Karat meter which enables customers to check the purity of their gold in the most efficient manner. The jewellery is manufactured in a fully integrated manufacturing plant with state-of-the-art equipment. The Tanishq retail chain currently spreads across 460+ exclusive boutiques in more than 250 cities. Rush to your nearest Tanishq store and indulge in this spectacular 'Festival of Diamonds' or you can choose to shop online from the comfort of your home at https://www.tanishq.co.in/festival-of-diamond.

Prestige Unveils True Edge Knife Singles and Ace Hand Blender: Elevate Culinary Mastery with Precision and Elegance

TTK Prestige, a pioneer in kitchen solutions in India, has recently launched two state-of-the-art appliances– the True Edge Knife Singles and the Ace Hand Blender–designed to meet a variety of household requirements. Prestige True Edge Knives are meticulously crafted with single-piece stainless steel and riveted handles, ensuring durability and a secure grip consists of 5 different types of knives, each mastering the most intricate areas of peeling and chopping. The Ace Hand Blende is designed with user convenience in mind for everyday use. Featuring an ergonomically designed body ensuring a smooth blending experience with minimal strain, making it a must-have among culinary enthusiasts and professionals.

Dangerous status quo

In Manipur, unless non-state actors are demilitarised, hostilities will persist

Eight months after ethnic violence broke out between the largely valley-dwelling Meitei and the hill-dwelling Kuki-Zo communities in Manipur, hostilities continue. The ethnic polarisation has persisted and displaced people on both sides are still unable to return to their homes; schooling and health care remain disrupted and the writ of the State government does not run in the Kuki-Zo hill areas. The government's inability to win peace and the failure of institutions such as the State Assembly to deliberate on the problem have compounded the conflict even as the Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh, continues to be seen more as an ethnic leader, preventing the possibility of any thaw in the pervasive hostility. Even media and civil society organisations seem to be divided on ethnic lines and, more dangerously, the role of the army and central paramilitary forces is being seen through this lens, evident in the utterances of the Chief Minister and representatives of ethnic chauvinist groups. The Union government's response has been to rely on a smoke and mirrors approach – a de facto assumption of powers related to law and order enforcement without publicly announcing the imposition of Article 355 that enables it to do so. There has been little follow-up on confidence-building measures between the representatives of the ethnic groups after visits by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and others from his Ministry. The latest visit by a Home Ministry team is a reaction to a resolution by some MLAs to take collective action following fresh killings and violence in Moreh town.

The predominance of militant outfits is alarming. Militias such as the Meitei radical Arambai Tenggol have been allowed to act as "defence squads", brandishing weapons and being allowed to vitiate the already perilous discourse in the valley even as Kuki insurgents do the same in the hill areas. The arms looted from police stations and camps have still to be recovered, which suggests that there is a dangerous militarisation of non-state groups. The Union government must focus on addressing this key issue on either side of the divide. Meanwhile, Mr. Singh has tried to erroneously link the prevailing conflict and the ethnic polarisation to the refugee situation in Manipur with many, predominantly from the Chin communities, fleeing the civil war in Myanmar following attacks by the junta. This has led to the demand for ending the Free Movement Regime (FMR) enabling trade and people-to-people contact near the border. While the porous border has also enabled drug trafficking and the movement of insurgents, a cessation of the FMR would be a case of throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

Choppy waters

India and the Maldives must persist with quiet diplomacy to reset ties

Within weeks of the India-Maldives showdown over derogatory remarks by Maldivian Ministers and the call for Indian tourists to boycott the archipelago, as well as the tussle over Indian troops stationed in Maldives, Delhi and Male are dealing with another controversy. This time it is over the Chinese "research" ship *Xiang Yang Hong 03*, that is expected to dock in Male in February. India has made its concerns over Chinese ships in the Indian Ocean clear. After objecting to visits by Chinese "research" vessels to Sri Lanka, New Delhi managed to ensure that Colombo banned, from 2024, all foreign research ships, that are believed to collect data for military and civilian purposes, from docking there. For New Delhi, the welcome mat for Chinese ships, at a time the new government of President Muizzu has scrapped the India-Maldives hydrography agreement, has played out as a rebuff. Male also welcomed a visit by the commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command, who presented equipment. That the developments follow other setbacks, beginning with Mr. Muizzu's electoral win last year after he ran with an "India Out" campaign slogan, his government's plans to push out Indian personnel and his decision to prioritise visits to Türkiye, the UAE and China have made it more worrying.

It is significant that despite Male's pushback and hyper nationalist calls within India, New Delhi has not stopped engaging the Muizzu government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Mr. Muizzu in December and set up a high-level core group for bilateral negotiations on tricky issues. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also met with his Maldivian counterpart last week. It is hoped that both sides realise that their tensions are merely symptoms of problems that could get larger: one, a regional power that aspires to be a global power, and the other, an archipelago dependent for its economic and regional security needs on external forces. While sovereignty is paramount for any country, it is important that the two sides see the benefit of a détente over confrontation. For India, whose neighbourhood first policy focuses on helping according to its neighbour's priorities, it is ungainly to be seen as foisting its military, that has carried out humanitarian operations, on the Maldives. For the Muizzu government, that just lost a significant election for Male mayor, the impact of the animus with India on upcoming Majlis (parliamentary) elections should also be a worry. In that sense, the Maldives decision to invite the *Xiang Yang Hong 03*, but not to allow it more than a routine port call is hopefully a sign that quiet diplomacy is working. A rational approach is more likely to shore troubled bilateral ties out of the choppy waters now.

The issue of genocide and the world court

Gautam Bhatia

is a New Delhi-based lawyer

On December 29, 2023, the Republic of South Africa instituted proceedings against Israel in the International Court of Justice (ICJ). In its application, South Africa argued that the manner in which Israel was conducting its military operations in Gaza violated the international Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the Genocide Convention). The ICJ held a hearing on "provisional measures" on January 11-12, 2024, where South Africa and Israel were given three hours each to present their cases. A ruling from the World Court on the issue of provisional measures is awaited.

The case has generated immense debate. At the time of writing, Bangladesh and Jordan have issued statements that they will intervene in the case, in support of South Africa's application. Germany has stated that it will intervene in support of Israel (intervening states can, however, only advance submissions on the question of the interpretation of the Genocide Convention). While a number of other countries, predominantly from Latin America and the Middle-East, have issued official statements supporting South Africa's application, others – most notable being the United States, the United Kingdom, and France – have signalled their opposition to it, with France going so far as to threaten non-compliance if the ICJ ends up issuing a finding of genocide against Israel.

The legal context

In order to make sense of this debate, it is important to understand the international legal context of these proceedings. The crime of genocide is characterised by actions intended to destroy in whole, or in substantial part, a defined group of people. Genocide is treated as the most serious of international crimes. For this reason, every state has an obligation (known as an *"erga omnes* obligation") to take steps to prevent the occurrence of genocide, wherever it may occur. This is the basis on which South Africa, a party that is technically unrelated to the conflict in Gaza, claims standing to bring this case to the ICJ. This is not new. In recent times, The Gambia instituted proceedings against Myanmar with respect to the genocide of the Rohingya, and successfully obtained provisional measures.

At the same time, demonstrating the existence of the crime of genocide, however, requires demonstrating specific intent ("*dolus specialis*"), which is often a tall order. It is for this reason that South Africa's request for provisional measures, and the hearing on January 11-12, were particularly important. "Provisional measures" are equivalent to what we would understand as "interim orders": they are issued pending the final determination of a case, in order to protect the rights of either party from being irreparably harmed. For obvious reasons, at the stage of provisional measures, the threshold of proof is much lower than in a final hearing – as The Gambia versus Myanmar case showed, a party must only demonstrate a plausible case that genocide is being carried out.

> The case of South Africa instituting proceedings against Israel in the International Court of Justice over the Gaza war is also a vital stress test of the 'rules-based international order'

In order to make out this plausible case, other than highlighting the decades of Palestinian dispossession and suffering from the 1948 nakba, the number of deaths in Gaza during the present war (24,000-plus, on the last count), the widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure (from hospitals to universities), and the imminent threat of famine and disease (as noted by United Nations officials), South Africa also argued that high-level Israeli politicians (from the President and Prime Minister, downwards) had made genocidal statements, which were then echoed by soldiers on the ground in Gaza, while making TikTok reels.

Israel, on the other hand, argued that there was no dispute between the parties, and that even if there was, these statements were open to more than one interpretation, and in any case, did not reflect operational protocols of the army. It said that the scope of the military operation was limited to destroying Hamas (and to that extent, the operation was consistent with the rules of international humanitarian law), in response to Hamas' attacks on October 7, which had killed around 1,200 people, and led to around 240 people being taken hostage.

The next stage

The key question at this stage is that if the ICJ finds that South Africa has fulfilled the plausibility requirement, what are the provisional measures that it might order? South Africa has asked for an immediate cessation of military hostilities. International law experts are of the opinion that the court might not be able to go that far (although it did do so recently, in the Ukraine versus Russia case); the core issue, then, is about how the court will tailor its provisional measures. A range of alternatives have been suggested – from compelling Israel to allow the entry of food and other resources into Gaza (in order to stave off the threat of famine), to a humanitarian ceasefire, to directing Israeli leaders to refrain from making further genocidal statements. The court also has the power to craft its own interim measures, beyond what the parties have asked for.

It is important to note that the ICJ is not the only forum for proceedings that have to do with the situation in Gaza. It has been asked why the ICJ proceedings are one-sided, in that it is only Israel in the dock, and not Hamas. The answer to that is that Hamas cannot be brought to the ICJ, as it is a non-state actor. Hamas officials (and also, Israeli officials) can, however, be proceeded against at the International Criminal Court (the ICC), which is a different body from the ICJ. This would require the situation in Palestine/Israel to be referred for investigation to the ICC, which has already been done. So far, however, no further steps have been taken by the ICC.

Beyond the law, the nature of the split between countries has led to debate. It has been pointed out, for example, that in The Gambia versus Myanmar case, Germany (along with a group of other states) intervened and argued in favour of a broad reading of the Genocide Convention. It is now being wondered aloud how the same nation-state will intervene in the South Africa versus Israel case, and seemingly advocate an opposite position.

More than that, however, with a few exceptions (such as Belgium) the split, as documented by the international law scholar Alonso Gurmendi, seems to track the divide between countries that were formerly colonial or imperial powers, and countries that were not.

A defining moment

This is not entirely coincidental: it has long been argued that modern international law was invented by the imperial "West", with a view to safeguarding its own material interests. For this reason, these proceedings are being viewed by many not only as being about Israel, Palestine, and the war in Gaza, but also about the legitimacy of international law itself, a situation that is not helped by belligerent statements issued by nation-states such as France. While the ICJ's order on provisional measures, and, subsequently, its decision in the main case, is vital primarily for the purpose of helping to mitigate, and imposing legal accountability for, the suffering in Gaza, beyond that, it is also a vital stress test of what is often referred to as the "rules-based international order". Whether that term has any bite, or whether it is only a convenient fiction, will become particularly clear over the next few months, depending on what the ICJ does, and how other nation-states respond.

India's problem — different drugs, identical brand names

Dinesh Thakur

is the co-author of The Truth Pill: The Myth of Drug Regulation in India (2022)

Prashant Reddy T.

is the co-author of The Truth Pill: The Myth of Drug Regulation in India (2022)

Recently, oncologist Dr. Vincent Rajkumar expressed his shock on social media over the fact that two different drugs, treating entirely different conditions, had identical brand names – 'Linamac'. While the drug bearing the name 'Linamac 5' is used to treat multiple myeloma, which is a type of cancer, the other drug bearing the name 'Linamac' is a drug used to treat diabetes. The consequences of confusion between these medications at the pharmacy can be serious for patients.

An old problem

The use of identical trade names for drugs with different active ingredients is an old problem in India, and the medical community has been complaining about the issue for several decades. The most popular example cited by doctors is that of the brand name Medzole, which is used by four different companies to sell four different active ingredients treating entirely different medical conditions. The first company uses 'Medzol' to sell a drug containing Midazolam which is used as a sedative. The second company uses the name 'Medzole-DSR' to sell a combination of domperidone and pantoprazole which is used to treat stomach acidity. A third company uses the name 'Medzole 400' for a formulation containing albendazole that is used in deworming treatment for children. A fourth company uses 'Medzole 200' for a formulation containing Itraconazole, which is a powerful antifungal drug used to treat diseases such as "black fungus".

The use of identical trade names is only one part of the problem. The more wide-ranging problem is the use of similar trade names which are phonetically and visually similar. For example, while one company uses the brand 'Medpol' to sell paracetamol, a second company uses the brand 'Medrol' to sell a corticosteroid and a third company uses 'Metrozole' to sell an antibiotic. These names sound phonetically similar to 'Medzole' and also similar to each other, with only a letter or two substituted.

It is not always that different companies use identical or similar names to sell different active ingredients. Sometimes, the same company will harvest a successful brand name for one formulation to promote a second formulation. For example, the company that uses the brand name 'I-Pill' to sell an emergency contraceptive (ECP) containing Levonorgestrel, uses the brand name 'i-Pill Daily' as a daily contraceptive pill containing Levonorgestrel and Ethinylestradiol. An ECP is used after sexual intercourse to prevent fertilisation, while a daily contraceptive is used to prevent ovulation and fertilisation. These are not interchangeable, and any confusion at the pharmacy can cause unwanted pregnancies.

> It is a case of deadly similarity which the medical community has been complaining about for many years, to no avail

The use of such identical or similar names is especially worrying in a country such as India for two reasons. First, the packaging of all drugs in India bears the name and prescription advice in the English language, a language spoken by less than 10% of the population. Second, Indian pharmacies are poorly regulated. Not only do many pharmacies in India routinely dispense drugs without prescriptions, but several also do not comply with the legal requirement to operate only with trained pharmacists who are registered with the Pharmacy Council of India. These factors already increase the possibility of errors in dispensing drugs. Add to this deadly combination, identical or similar sounding brand names of drugs, and the possibility of prescription errors increases even further.

Judiciary's recommendation

The problem of similar or identical trade names for drugs has been known for several decades. The Supreme Court of India (in Cadila Health Care Ltd. vs Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd., 2001) and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare in its 59th report (2012) urged the Ministry of Health to put in place processes to prevent the use of names for drugs that are confusingly similar. After all, even the Registrar of Companies and the Office of Registrar of Newspapers for India have systems in place to ensure that no two companies or publications have identical or similar names.

Regrettably, the recommendations of the Court and Parliament were ignored by the Ministry of Health, until in 2019 when Justice Pratibha M. Singh of the Delhi High Court, a former intellectual property lawyer, hauled up the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) in yet another case of pharmaceutical trademark infringement that landed on her docket. Pharmaceutical companies regularly litigate against each other under trademark law in courts across India over same or similar sounding trademarks.

Under Justice Singh's watch, the Ministry of Health brought in the Drugs and Cosmetics (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2019. These rules put in place a flimsy system that required pharmaceutical companies to provide an "undertaking" to State drug controllers, along with their applications for manufacturing licences, that the brand name of the drug for which they were seeking a manufacturing licence was unlikely to cause "confusion or deception in the market". To this end, the rules required pharmaceutical companies to carry out a search for similar names "...in trademarks registry, central database for brand name or trade name of drugs maintained by Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation [CDSCO], literature and reference books on details of drug formulations in India, and internet".

This framework was pointless for two reasons. First, self-certification just does not work in India, as evident from the fact that many drugs in India continue to have confusingly similar names. Second, even if a company wanted to comply with the new rule, there is no database in India of all pharmaceutical brand-names. The CDSCO would first have to build such a database by collecting data from the 36 different drug controllers in each State and Union Territory.

No data in India

As a country, India has no data on prescription errors. And for the Ministry of Health, the absence of data is the absence of a problem. Once the Ministry of Health accepts that there is a problem, it can start the reform process by replicating mechanisms such as those that exist in the United States and Europe. Both jurisdictions have specific divisions within their drug regulators to examine the names of drugs on a number of factors to avoid confusion in order to minimise prescription errors. There is not an iota of political will within the Drug Regulation Section of the Ministry of Health to undertake similar reforms in India.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Diplomacy, reality check

India's relationships with its neighbours such as Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Myanmar are drifting. The kind of support to the newly elected government in Bangladesh that has been throttling the democratic process is not so welcome. The kind of response by the Indian government to the ongoing wars between Russia and Ukraine and Israel and Hamas are not well relished by the so-called western powers. The vexed relationship with Pakistan is well known and the challenges with China seem to be never ending. And India, a nation that is called the largest democracy in the world, is drifting towards theocracy. May the authorities in India spare some time to introspect and try to take appropriate policy decisions. There need to be good diplomatic efforts to set things right.

Cavery Palani,
Chennai

Ayodhya's future

Ayodhya can be made an international peace summit spot which will also give a boost to the tourism value and earnings of Ayodhya. The huge money that is bound to pour in can be utilised for a number of welfare projects.

P.V. Madhu Nivriti,
Secunderabad

Corrections & Clarifications

In the story regarding a Home Ministry team being sent to Manipur (January 23, 2024), the headline erroneously read "Meitei MLAs call for 'positive action'." It should have merely said "MLAs." In the text, the reference to a resolution by "35 Meitei MLAs" was erroneous. It should have read "35 MLAs excluding the ten Kuki-Zo legislators." Elsewhere in the text, the reference to "Meitei MLAs" should have been "MLAs."

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U.S. poll candidate race

Donald Trump, who seems to be making gains, is no stranger to turning to racism and name calling against his foes. Interestingly, Nikki Haley has refused to exit. But, her shaky rationale for continuing her campaign may face a terminal reality.

Gregory Fernandes,
Mumbai

Providing clean water to all

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

is Union Minister of Jal Shakti Mission

In the hilly village of Kyarkuli Bhatta in Uttarakhand, there is no mass migration anymore. The tribal hamlet of Kusumdih in Jharkhand has seen a reduction in human-animal conflicts. And in Chandpur village in Maharashtra, weddings are being celebrated with pomp and show again. This is because there is tap water in all these regions, provided by the Jal Jeevan Mission. Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019, the Jal Jeevan Mission has already provided tap water to 73% of rural households. This means that more than 14 crore rural households have tap connections compared to only 3.23 crore in August 2019. Through the Mission, guided by the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas', India is rapidly advancing towards the realisation of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation for all).

We embarked on this journey with the objective of providing piped water in adequate quantities and of prescribed quality on a regular and long-term basis to every rural household in India. We wanted to ensure that no one had to face water scarcity and its consequences on health, hygiene, and well-being. At the national level, we focused on strengthening infrastructure, which was a big challenge because of the diverse terrains and geographical differences in India. We brought together communities, development partners, and NGOs.

Benefits of the scheme

We realised that there cannot be a one-size-fits-all arrangement. Every region has different needs. But with the core theme of 'no one is left behind,' the Jal Jeevan Mission dealt with different kinds of challenges. Insulated pipes were used in hilly and cold regions. In villages with water quality issues, multi- village schemes through bulk water transfer were planned. Community water purification plants were provided to meet drinking and cooking water needs for the short term.

The growth story of the Jal Jeevan Mission is not confined to data; changes can be seen on the ground. Its impact has extended beyond the provision of clean water; it encompasses a broader commitment to the safety, health, and environment of rural communities.

Various studies have been conducted on the Jal Jeevan Mission, its implementation, and impact. Nobel Laureate Dr. Michael Kremer's study states that providing safe water can reduce infant deaths by almost 30%, with the potential to prevent 25% of under-five deaths in India (1,36,000 child deaths annually). A study conducted in the financial year 2023-24 by the World Health Organization states that 4 lakh diarrhoeal deaths can be averted if tap water is provided in every household. The Jal Jeevan Mission can lead to economic savings of up to $101 billion or ₹8.37 lakh crore.

At the heart of the Jal Jeevan Mission lies a commitment to strengthening the socio-economic fabric of rural communities. It recognises the fact that true development is not just about infrastructure; it is about bringing in a sense of community. The active involvement of women in decision-making processes, the empowerment of the youth through skill development, and the creation of local water enterprises are not isolated initiatives but systematic steps strengthening communities. The Nal Jal Mitra initiative, for instance, is a specialised programme which equips villagers with a comprehensive set of skills so that they are able to carry out minor repairs and maintenance of the piped water supply scheme in their village. Over 5.29 lakh village water and sanitation committees/ Pani Samitis have been constituted under the Jal Jeevan Mission and 5.17 lakh village action plans have been developed. About 22.98 lakh women have been trained for testing water samples using field testing kits.

At the heart of the Jal Jeevan Mission lies a commitment to strengthening the socio-economic fabric of rural communities

A recent study, 'Assessment of Employment Potential of Jal Jeevan Mission', states that the Mission's employment generation potential during the construction phase is on average 59.93 lakh person-years of direct employment and 2.22 crore person-years of indirect employment and 11.18 lakh person-years of additional direct employment annually during the operation and maintenance stage.

Transparency and efficiency

The Jal Jeevan Mission has a dashboard that gives real-time updates, progress reports, and so on, ensuring transparency and efficiency in water resource management. It also ensures continuous monitoring and surveillance of water quality parameters through advanced technologies. The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation maintains a proactive Water Quality Management Information System. This helps detect contamination or deterioration in water quality, thereby enabling prompt corrective action and grievance redress.

As of now, there are 2,113 labs in India. Water quality testing labs of States/Union Territories are now open to the public for testing water samples at nominal rates. In 2023-24, more than 46.62 lakh water samples have been tested in laboratories which are digitised in the Water Quality Management Information System.

With the Jal Jeevan Mission, we have crossed new milestones and delivered water to millions across India. Our road map for the future is to create a situation where water scarcity is a thing of the past and no rural household suffers the lack of this elixir of life. We are also engaging our people to take care of the water assets that have been created. We are on the right track to achieve our drinking water targets. Resources are in place to implement our objectives. The outlook for the year is positive.

How many deputies are too many?

The demand for more deputy chief ministers has returned to bother the Congress

STATE OF PLAY

Nagesh Prabhu
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The demand for three more deputy chief ministers in Karnataka, which first came to the fore three months ago, has come back to haunt the Congress government. If it persists, it could turn out to be a headache for the party ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

The Congress, which was voted to power in May 2023, had two senior leaders, Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar, vying for the top job. The issue was resolved after the party high command intervened and made Mr. Siddaramaiah Chief Minister and Mr. Shivakumar his deputy. Mr. Shivakumar was given portfolios of his choice and was also allowed to retain the post of State Congress president.

Just as Mr. Shivakumar began to emerge as an alternative power centre within the ruling party, a few ministers loyal to the Chief Minister publicly started demanding three more deputy chief ministers. This ask slowly died down three months ago. But when the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) appointed two deputy chief ministers in the newly formed governments in three Hindi heartland States last month, the demand resurfaced in Karnataka.

The ministers raising this demand claim that the creation of three more posts of deputy chief minister would help "balance castes" ahead of the Lok Sabha polls and help the party win at least 20 seats compared to the one seat it won in 2019. As Mr. Shivakumar belongs to the Vokkaliga community, the demand is to appoint deputies

belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, minority and Veerashaiva-Lingayat groups to consolidate the party's position against the BJP-JD(S) alliance.

Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna, who first made the demand, cited the appointments of multiple deputy chief ministers in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh by the BJP. Mr. Rajanna's proposal has been endorsed by Home Minister G. Parameshwara, who earlier served as the Deputy Chief Minister. Some Ministers apparently held a couple of 'dinner meetings' to discuss the issue. The first meeting was held at Mr. Parameshwara's house in October 2023, and attended by the Chief Minister. The second was held in early January 2024 and was attended by Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa, Food Minister K.H. Muniyappa, and Mr. Parameshwara, who are all from SC communities; Mr. Rajanna and Minister of Public Works Department Satish Jarkiholi from the Valmiki/Nayak ST community; and Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, a Brahmin. Mr. Siddaramaiah did not attend this meeting but most of the ministers who did are considered to be close to him.

The demand for more deputy chief ministers has obviously not gone down well with Mr. Shivakumar and the party high command. Mr. Shivakumar has maintained that only the high command can take decisions on such matters. "Everyone has to work together to win parliamentary elections, that's it," he said.

When All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka, Randeep Singh Surjewala, visited Bengaluru recently, the ministers placed their demand before him. Both Mr. Surjewala and AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge have brushed aside the proposal. "There is no proposal to create additional deputy chief ministers before the AICC," Mr. Kharge said and maintained that raising such demands ahead of the general elections was inappropriate. The AICC chief argued that the government's focus should be on providing good administration and addressing people's problems. Mr. Surjewala told the ministers to focus on effective delivery of the five guarantees being implemented by the government, to garner votes. But the ministers do not seem to have entirely given up on their demand.

Though the deputy chief minister's post has no mention in the Constitution, it is a sought-after post these days as the person holding the post is seen as the second-in-command and therefore a natural successor. Karnataka has had more than one deputy chief minister under both Congress-led and BJP-led governments. Mr. Siddaramaiah too served as the Deputy Chief Minister twice in the past.

For now, the Congress high command seems to be in no mood to concede the demand; doing so would undermine the importance of the party's "trouble-shooter", Mr. Shivakumar. But handling the situation before the elections is going to be a challenge for the party.

Spin dominance propelled India to invincibility at home

Ashwin and Jadeja were aided by a robust pace attack during India's undefeated years in the last decade

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan & Srinivasan Ramani

Today, when England starts its five-match Test tour in India, it will be facing the most successful team at home in the last decade. India's win-loss record at home, in the past 11 years, stands apart when compared to the home records of other major Test-playing nations. Notably, India's last Test series defeat at home came against England back in November-December 2012. The numbers analysed in this piece pertain to all the matches played in the 11 years post that defeat, unless specified otherwise.

Table 1 shows the number of home Tests played by all teams since December 20, 2012. It also lists the win/loss ratio and the share of wins. With a win/loss ratio of 12, India's home record is much higher than Australia's 7. India topped the table in terms of share of wins too.

India had not always been such a formidable force at home. In fact, its record in home Tests before the 2010s pales in comparison to the much superior figures it has maintained in the last two decades. **Table 2** shows the number of home tests played by India, the win/loss ratio and share of wins, decade-wise. In both these measures, India's record in the last two decades stands tall compared to its own record before the 2010s.

The key to India's dominating Test performances at home has been its two premier spinners. The record-breaking number of wickets taken by spin duo Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja in the past decade formed the bedrock of India's impregnable fortress on home turf. Ashwin, in particular, has secured the majority of India's wickets in the period. If sorted on the basis of a bowler's share in total wickets taken by the team in the past 11 years, Ashwin ranks first on the chart. Incredibly, Jadeja is not far behind on the list which features the top five bowlers.

Table 3 shows the list of bowlers sorted based on wickets taken as a share of their team's total Test wickets in home matches, since December 20, 2012. By securing 33.3% of all of India's Test wickets at home in the period, Ashwin ranks first. Jadeja is ranked fourth on the list (22.5% of all wickets).

In fact, though India has a rich legacy of spin bowling, with star-studded spinners adorning the line-ups, it was in the 2020s that the spinners' share of India's total wickets at home reached a new peak. This shows that not only were Ashwin and Jadeja better spinners than their contemporaries, but their record is also superior compared to India's spinners from earlier periods.

Table 4 shows the share of India's wickets secured by Indian spinners at home, decade-wise. In the 2020s, 79.2% of all wickets claimed by Indians were taken by spinners. The previous high of 80.2% was way back in the 1950s.

While it is true that the two spinners have dominated the proceedings back home, India has been building a world-beating pace attack too in the past decade. The fast-bowling unit's accomplishments in pace-friendly overseas conditions have led to historic triumphs. Yet, the fact that such a fast-bowling unit captured relatively fewer wickets back home only underscores the spin twins' exceptional performance.

In all the Tests played in India, in the past 11 years, the Indian pace attack has the best average and strike rate compared to the speedsters of all the visiting teams. **Table 5A** shows the bowling average and strike rate of various teams' pace attacks in India since December 20, 2012.

This is also true if only the nine matches played against England in the period were considered, as shown in **Table 5B**.

Table 1: The number of home Tests (Mat) played by all teams since December 20, 2012. The table also lists the win/loss ratio (W/L) and the share of wins (% win)

Team	Mat	W/L	% win
India	46	12.0	78.3
Australia	57	7.0	73.7
South Africa	52	2.7	67.3
New Zealand	45	4.8	64.4
England	73	2.1	57.5
Sri Lanka	44	1.2	50.0
West Indies	42	0.9	38.1
Bangladesh	36	0.8	33.3
Pakistan	13	1.0	30.8

Table 2: The number of home tests played by India, the win/loss ratio and share of wins, decade-wise

Decade	Mat	W/L	% win	Decade	Mat	W/L	% win
2020s	12	4.0	66.7	1970s	34	1.6	32.4
2010s	50	9.3	74.0	1960s	36	0.8	16.7
2000s	47	2.6	44.7	1950s	25	0.8	24.0
1990s	30	3.4	56.7	1940s	5	0.0	0.0
1980s	42	0.9	19.0	1930s	3	0.0	0.0

Table 3: Bowlers sorted based on wickets taken as a % of their team's Test wickets at home, since Dec. 20, 2012 (Nat. = Nation)

Player	Type	%	Nat.	Player	Type	%	Nat.
Ashwin	Spin	33.3	IND	Herath	Spin	22.2	SL
Taijul	Spin	30.3	BAN	Lyon	Spin	22.1	AUS
Southee	Pace	24.7	NZ	Boult	Pace	21.6	NZ
Jadeja	Spin	22.5	IND	Rabada	Pace	20.3	SA
Wagner	Pace	22.4	NZ	Roach	Pace	20.1	WI
Broad	Pace	22.4	ENG				

Table 4: The table shows the share of India's wickets secured by Indian spinners at home, decade-wise. The total wickets secured by Indian spinners is also listed

Decade	%	Total
2020s	79.2	175
2010s	66.7	598
2000s	68.5	508
1990s	67.1	328
1980s	58.7	318
1970s	70.1	359
1960s	78.8	383
1950s	80.2	243
1940s	55.3	26
1930s	23.1	9

Table 5A: Bowling average and strike rate of various teams' pace attacks in India since December 20, 2012. **Table 5B** shows the same for those Tests played by England in India

Team	Mat	Ave	SR
India	40	24.73	50.2
Afghanistan	3	31.54	51.8
WI	3	31.12	52
Bangladesh	3	46.87	64.7
NZ	5	36.34	73.1
Australia	8	40.11	77.2
England	9	39.35	78.6
Sri Lanka	5	49.82	81
South Africa	7	38.7	85.4

Table 5B

Team	Mat	Ave	SR
India	9	34.05	73.3
England	9	39.35	78.6

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 25, 1974

LIC wage dispute settled: 16-day lock-out lifted

New Delhi, Jan. 24: The 16-day long lock-out in the six divisional offices of the Life Insurance Corporation of India will be lifted from to-morrow, following an agreement on the issues under dispute between the management and the five unions, reached here late to-night.

Suspension orders served on employees except in cases of gross indiscipline, are being withdrawn. These cases will be reviewed separately, it was announced.

Representatives of one of the five unions, the All India National Life Insurance Employees Federation, did not sign the agreement here to-night. The representatives of the union affiliated to the INTUC, however, said they were willing to sign the agreement but would like to consult their own negotiating committee before doing so. The other unions whose representatives have signed the agreements are: The All India Insurance Employees Association, the All India LIC Employees Federation, the All India Life Insurance Employees' Association and the National Organisation of Insurance Workers.

At the conclusion of the signing of the agreement, the Chairman, Mr. Puri, said that the settlement involved an outlay of Rs. 6 crores in addition to the existing wage bill. It would secure substantial gains for the employees in the matter of scales of pay, house rent allowance and city compensatory allowance. All the employees would also get handsome bonus.

He said that if the employees extended their fullest co-operation as they had solemnly assured to do, it would be possible to consider their demands for improvement in provident fund contributions, leave travel concessions and medical benefits.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 25, 1924

Britain and Afghanistan

London, Jan. 24: The Afghan Legation here has issued a statement pointing out that Ajab is in strict custody of Afghanistan and will be deported. Other members of his gang are outside Afghanistan, among independent tribes of Mohmand. The statement adds that the British Government has hitherto taken the steps in connection with the arms of the Afghan Government which are still held up in Bombay.

From Page One

Mamata rules out LS poll alliance with Cong.

"Even as a matter of courtesy they didn't tell that they are coming to my State. I am part of INDIA alliance," she said. The Congress yatra is scheduled to enter the State on January 25.

Reiterating that the Trinamool is a secular party, Ms. Banerjee said that would decide the party's future path after the election. "At the all-India level what we will do, we will think after elections. We are secular party and will do anything to defeat the BJP," she said.

Asked whether she would continue to be part of the Opposition's INDIA bloc, Ms. Banerjee emphasised that the alliance is not made of one party. "The regional parties, we will be all together. We have said they [Congress] should fight alone in 300 seats, and leave the remaining to regional parties where they should not interfere. If they interfere in the remaining seats, then we will think otherwise," the West Bengal Chief Minister said.

'Mamata is a respected leader'

In an initial reaction to her remarks, the Congress communications chief expressed hope that some way forward would emerge after discussions, placing hope on Ms. Banerjee's determination to fight the BJP.

Describing the Chief Minister as a respected leader, Mr. Ramesh said that Congress leaders such as Sonia Gandhi and president Mallikarjun Kharge have good ties with the Trinamool chairperson.

Ms. Banerjee's remarks come a day after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that his party was in talks with the Trinamool over seat-sharing in West Bengal. Mr. Gandhi has said that he has good relations with the Trinamool chairperson, but State leaders of both parties have been targeting each other over the past few weeks. While the Trinamool has accused the Congress of unrealistic bargaining, the Congress has said that the Trinamool needs it more in the elections.

Big hopes: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann addresses a press conference in Chandigarh. PTI

'No AAP-Congress alliance in Punjab'

He made the statement in response to a question about an electoral alliance between the two parties in Punjab. He was talking to presspersons in Chandigarh after a Cabinet meeting.

"I have said it on several occasions that Punjab will become a hero in the country and the AAP will win 13-0 in the 2024 Lok Sabha election," he said. He said that nearly 40 names of probable candidates for the 13 seats have come up after the party recently held deliberations on the election.

He added that there are three to four probable candidates per Lok Sabha constituency.

Himanta, Rahul spar; CM warns Cong. leader of arrest after polls

Assam Chief Minister says Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra participants caused violence, provocation, and damage to public property in State; former Congress president says top BJP leaders are full of harted, Assam has most corrupt Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said here on on Wednesday that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi would be arrested after the Lok Sabha election for "instigating violence and disturbing peace" in the State during his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra.

He said a special investigation team had been formed to probe the allegations of violence, provocation, and damage to public property caused by Mr. Gandhi and other Congress leaders.

"We have evidence against him. We will arrest him after the Lok Sabha polls because any action before that will invite unnecessary criticism," Mr. Sarma told presspersons.

The election is due in three months.

He said Mr. Gandhi's attempt to enter the Batadrava shrine in Nagaon district on Monday was politically motivated to attract media attention and cause trouble. "If he loves Assam so much, he could have visited Bhupen Hazarika's samadhi on the Yatra route. If he respected Srimanta Sankaradeva [15th-16th century saint-reformer born in Batadrava], he could have offered prayers at the Barpeta Satra on the way. And if he believed in Hinduism, he could have paid obeisance at Kamakhya Temple on the way," he said.

Reaching the masses: A huge crowd gathers as the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi stops in a locality in Assam on Wednesday. ANI

Earlier, Assam's Director-General of Police Gyanendra Pratap Singh said the criminal case registered against Mr. Gandhi and other Congress leaders relating to the violation of various laws during a road event in Guwahati on Tuesday had been transferred to the Crime Investigation Department.

The FIR against Mr. Gandhi includes non-bailable charges under Sections 353 (assault on public servant), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from duty), and 333 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt to deter public servant from duty) of the Indian Penal Code.

Addressing a couple of rallies on the last day of his Yatra in Assam before moving to Cooch Behar district in West Bengal on Thursday, Mr. Gandhi said the action of the BJP-led government against him and other Congress leaders was expected.

"[Prime Minister] Narendra Modi*ji*, [Home Minister] Amit Shah, and your Chief Minister are full of hatred," he said adding that the attacks on the peaceful Congress Yatra were pre-planned.

He called Mr. Sarma the most corrupt Chief Minister who commits injustice on the people with impunity. "He owns everything. The coal you burn for your ovens belongs to him, the tea gardens where your tea comes from are his, the newspapers and TV channels are his, the *supari* in your *paan* is his, the resorts in Kaziranga are his...," he said.

At Dhubri, Mr. Gandhi took a swipe at Maulana Badruddin Ajmal, the local MP and the chief of the minority-based All India United Democratic Front. The Modi-Shah-Sarma trio and Mr. Ajmal were two sides of the same coin, he said.

"The Congress has come to defeat the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections in Assam. And if we want to defeat the BJP, we have to defeat its B-team too," Mr. Gandhi said.

Earlier, at a public meeting in Barpeta, Mr. Gandhi dared the BJP-ruled State to file "as many cases as it can", asserting that he will not be intimidated.

(With PTI inputs)

Ensure Rahul's safety during Yatra, Cong. requests Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Highlighting various "security issues" faced by Rahul Gandhi during the Assam leg of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, the Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to intervene and ensure that no untoward incident takes place that may lead to "grave personal injury" towards Mr. Gandhi and other members of the yatra.

Mr. Kharge's letter, written on Tuesday night and shared on social media platform X on Wednesday, came on a day when the Assam Police registered a case against Mr. Gandhi and other members of his team for trying to change the designated route of the yatra and forcibly trying to enter Guwahati city, permission for which was denied by the State government.

Mentioning several instances of security breaches in his letter, Mr. Kharge alleged that the Assam Police had been found wanting in providing adequate security to Mr. Gandhi, who is entitled to Z+ security.

Union Cabinet lauds Modi for grand consecration

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday adopted a resolution felicitating Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the grand consecration ceremony at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Addressing the media, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on behalf of his Cabinet colleagues, read out the resolution lauding Mr. Modi for the unprecedented accomplishments under his leadership.

Court tells ASI to make Gyanvapi report public

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Varanasi district court on Wednesday ordered that the report of a scientific survey of the Gyanvapi mosque conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) be made public to allow all petitioners, both Hindus and Muslims, access to the document.

District Judge A.K. Vishvesha delivered the order while hearing a bunch of petitions filed by the Hindu petitioners seeking access to the report.

The detailed order is awaited in which the court will direct the conditions for the parties to get the report.

The detailed order is awaited in which the court will direct the conditions for the parties to get the ASI report. PTI

The ASI, in its application in the court on January 3, had urged the judge to delay the release of the report by four weeks.

The agency has made this request to get breathing time to file the report in the 1991 suit pertaining to the Kashi Vishwanath-Gyanvapi Mosque dispute currently pending in the Allahabad High Court.

The Central agency added that if the report is unsealed and disclosed in public before its submission in the High Court, there are more chances for rumours and misrepresentation that could affect its work.

The ASI conducted the survey based on the orders of the Varanasi district court delivered on July 21. The court had asked it to determine if the mosque was constructed over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple.

'Not to conduct survey'

The Supreme Court, in August 2023, on a petition of the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee (which manages the Gyanvapi Mosque), asked the ASI not to conduct any survey in the *Wazukhana* area of the mosque.

Starting its ground survey in the last week of July, the ASI took five months to complete the exercise and submitted the report in court on December 12 .

On Wednesday, Justice Manish Kumar Nigam of the Allahabad High Court recused himself from hearing a plea challenging the Varanasi district court's refusal to direct the ASI to conduct a scientific survey of the *Wazukhana* area inside the mosque complex.

The matter will now be placed before the Chief Justice who will nominate another judge to hear the matter.

The next hearing is on January 31.

Karpoori Thakur gave new life to Hindi: Shah

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday drew attention to the fact that the socialist icon Karpoori Thakur had promoted Hindi in matriculation examination, after scrapping English as a compulsory subject, when he had been the Education Minister.

Hindi got a new life and acceptance only when Karpoori Thakur made the use of Hindi mandatory for all government work, he said.

Taking the spirit forward, the Minister said Indian languages had been given prime importance in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's National Education Policy and a new era has started as medical and technical education was also being imparted in Indian languages.

"One of the things about Karpoori Thakur that impresses me the most was his acceptance for Hindi," Mr. Shah said while addressing the 100th birth anniversary celebration of the socialist leader and former Bihar Chief Minister, in Delhi.

Modi govt.'s nominations for state honours covers an entire spectrum

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The announcement that the socialist leader Karpoori Thakur has been posthumously accorded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, has triggered a view that the Narendra Modi government has done so keeping in mind the social justice legacy of the leader and the electoral battle in Bihar, but a look at state honours of the past decade show it is of a pattern.

The Modi government has given six Bharat Ratnas, in contrast with the three the two UPA governments between 2004 and 2014 had announced. With its selections, the current government seems to have put out a clear messaging of intent and recognition of public service.

Conferring the awards on the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, founder of Banaras Hindu University Madan Mohan Malviya and senior RSS ideologue and social worker Nana Deshmukh (the last two posthumously) was clearly aimed at recognising the ideological underpinnings of the BJP government.

Rashtriya Lok Janata Dal members distribute sweets in Patna after Karpoori Thakur was named for the Bharat Ratna. PTI

The award to Bhupen Hazarika, also given posthumously, was a nod to the BJP's political ascent in Assam, the State from where the musician hailed, as well as an acknowledgement of his iconic status.

This was the second Bharat Ratna with significance for Assam being given by an NDA government, with former Chief Minister Gopinath Bordoloi posthumously honoured by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government in the year 1999.

Former President Pranab Mukherjee, elected to the post under the UPA, was selected for the award by the Modi government.

The case of Pranab

His five-decade-long career in public service was a consideration, but also the fact that for many, he also represented a Congress that was not there any more – economically Left, but socially and culturally right of centre – and was also one who reached across the ideological aisle – for instance, his visit to the RSS headquarters in Nagpur in July 2018, after he had ceased being the President.

Padma Vibhushan for Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh in 2023 evoked a strong internal response from the Sangh Parivar

Mukherjee and Thakur are not the only ideological rivals the Modi government has accorded state honours. From Sharad Pawar (Padma Vibhushan in 2017) and Muzaffar Hussain Baig of the Peoples Democratic Party (Padma Bhushan, 2020) to the late Tarun Gogoi, former Chief Minister of Assam and Congressman to the end (Padma Bhushan, 2021), the Modi government has covered the political spectrum. In fact, Padma Vibhushan for Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh in 2023 evoked a strong internal response from the Sangh Parivar, which holds him responsible for the police firing on *Kar Sevaks* heading for the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, in the aftermath of the Ram Rath yatra in November 1990.

Cong. welcomes Bharat Ratna, but calls it 'hypocrisy'

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

From welcoming the decision to honour Karpoori Thakur to pointing out how a BJP stalwart was instrumental in the collapse of his government in Bihar in the 1970s, the Congress offered a politically qualified response to the Bharat Ratna announcement.

The Congress said it reflected the Modi government's "desperation and hypocrisy".

The announcement not only caught the principal Opposition party by surprise but also blunted its social justice plank that it is hoping to frame as a counter to the BJP's Hindutva push after the Ram Mandir inauguration at Ayodhya.

The timing of the announcement is also significant from the point of view of possible political realignments amid reports of a widening rift between Bihar Chief Nitish Kumar, a disciple of Karpoori Thakur, and other members of the INDIA bloc.

In a post on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "He [Karpoori Thakur] believed that development in the country is incomplete without social justice, hence he was in favour of caste census".

Welcoming the decision, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi called Thakur "an incomparable warrior of social justice and a precious gem of India".

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said, "Even though it reflects the Modi government's desperation and hypocrisy, the Indian National Congress welcomes the posthumously awarded Bharat Ratna".

"Interesting fact: In 1979, then Chief Minister of Bihar #KarpooriThakur ji tried to implement reservations for OBCs based on the Mungeri Lal Commission Report. Kailashpati Mishra who was a tall Jansangh leader and finance minister in that govt, sabotaged Karpoori Babu's attempts and ensured that the govt fell. Kailashpati Mishra is considered to be the Bhishma Pitamah of BJP in Bihar," Congress leader Pawan Khera said in a post on X.

CEC cautions against AI deepfakes and fake reports

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Barely months before the Lok Sabha election, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar on Wednesday asked political parties to engage in discussions that inspire rather than divide, and promote ideas instead of personal attacks.

In his customary address on the eve of National Voters Day, which is celebrated on January 25, Mr. Kumar also flagged the threat from deepfakes, artificial intelligence (AI), and misinformation as instruments being deployed to undercut the faith of the people in the electoral process.

The Election Commission of India appeals to political parties for their continued support and assures them of its fullest cooperation, Mr. Kumar said.

"Fostering an ethical and respectful political discourse plays a critical role in shaping the democratic process, and in influencing our young voters," the CEC said.

‘There is serious concern about whole construct of safe harbour’

Electronics and Information Technology Minister says the thought process that there should be accountability of what is published on social media is taking shape globally; he says provisions which allow government to take over networks are imperative in today’s world; and India will have to triple the amount of digital connectivity especially when introducing new technologies such as 6G

INTERVIEW

Ashwini Vaishnaw

Aroon Deep

Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw speaks on the Telecommunications Act, 2023, India’s semiconductor ambitions, and digital governance in India. Excerpts:

The Telecommunications Act, 2023 passed Parliament last Winter Session...

The Act is a set of real structural reforms which will hold us good for many, many years. We are moving away from a licence permit regime to a very calculated authorisation for a long period. Telecom spectrum will be auctioned as per the Supreme Court judgment, except for some items like defence where spectrum will be allotted administratively. There are also provisions to share and give up unused spectrum, as well as for harmonisation of different bands of spectrum. For innovation, we have a ‘sandbox’ where academia can experiment with new technologies. Right of Way is another important reform: States govern the building of telecom infrastructure, and district judges are empowered to decide compensation in these cases if there is any dispute.

We have to triple the amount of digital connectivity in India – we have already increased it four times since 2014, but more will have to come to deal with new technologies like 6G. We have a four-tier structure for dispute resolution, as well as a way for telecom companies to self-report violations. There is an online dispute resolution mechanism for consumers to redress grievances. The Universal Services Obligation Fund has been expanded into the Digital Bharat Nidhi, and will facilitate research and development in addition to its mandate on improving connectivity in under-served areas. We should be looking at structures that will make India very strong in the global marketplace for telecommunications. On the criticism of national security [provisions which allow the government to take over telecommunications networks]: this has been the case all over the world since ages. We have seen in recent conflicts that the first targets are the power sector and telecommunications. So it’s very important for national security purposes [that this provision exist]. On interception [of phone connections], we have a regime since 1996 defined by the Supreme Court. It’s time-tested by multiple different governments. This system has been working perfectly so far.

There were no mobile phones in 1996, and phone tapping can still be authorised by senior government officials without the need for judicial scrutiny. Should that continue?

The Supreme Court has set out a very clear framework in its judgment [*People’s Union for Civil Liberties v Union of India*], and it is a technology agnostic framework. That framework is still followed today.

SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

You have said that there is no provision to regulate OTT apps like WhatsApp, but observers say that the language of the Act could allow it in the future. Does the Act give the government this power in your view?

The government works by defining what the work remit of each department is. In the digital world, fintech is regulated by the Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank of India. That is also a digital subject. Medical electronics are governed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. These are electronics and digital issues, but they are under the purview of these Ministries under the Allocation of Business Rules. Suppose tomorrow, it is decided that all digital-related work will be put in one Ministry. Then things change. But that is not possible: everything is digital these days. These are hypothetical situations.

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, you spoke of the evolution from newspapers to the digital world and what has changed. Can you elaborate on that?

Today, there is a serious concern about the whole construct of safe harbour. [Safe harbour is a principle that websites are not fully liable for the content posted by third party users.] That construct was developed in the 1990s when the Internet was evolving. Today, it is ubiquitous. Practically everyone has access to social media. So the thought process that there should be accountability of what is published on social media is taking shape across the world.

Does the Act effectively mandate Aadhaar for getting SIM cards?

In the Act, it is prescribed that any person who gets a telecom service must have biometric authentication done. You can create your own biometric authorisation, which can be a fingerprint, anything. Know-your-customer (KYC) is very important for telecom. It is like a bank service today – banking, insurance, financial services and entertainment, everything is on mobile phones these days. And one person is allowed to take [nine] connections. Developed economies have strict rules about getting phone connections.

We have signed MoUs with many countries for spreading India Stack technologies such as Aadhaar. How are these shaping up?

There has been a huge response. People know that this is a democracy, where judicial processes are clear, transparent standards are in place.

What are your foremost strategic goals with electronics manufacturing?

First, it is hugely employment generating. The employment in electronics manufacturing in India has crossed 4.5 million people. That’s a large number. Second, it is a good complement to our design capabilities. We have Global Capability Centres in India for practically every large and complex product. Manufacturing complements that ecosystem. There are major manufacturers for telecom equipment, from China, Korea, Finland, Sweden... We are joining this exclusive club. More than 2,000 towers are already rolled out, and we are testing them in the real world. We should start exploring the export potential for this technology, and there is already interest from 18 countries. This year, telecom product exports are already touching ₹9,000 crore, not including mobile phones.

Telecom operators have been demanding that online service providers pay a usage fee to them. Are you sympathetic to that demand?

These are items that have been debated all over the world. It is still a debatable point and I don’t want to take sides at this point.

On AI deepfakes, you have had discussions with social media platforms. What is the way forward?

At this point, we are working within the existing regulatory framework and the existing law, because the elections are just around the corner and social media platforms have given their full assurance that they will take all steps to detect deepfakes and remove them. We’re pushing them to be more proactive because today technologies that can detect deepfakes exist, and it is time that social media platforms took more steps.
(Full interview on bit.ly/vaishnaw)

Amid twin blows, INDIA puts up brave front

Leaders believe that solo contests by the ruling parties will split anti-incumbency votes against them; Congress responds without rancour, saying the bloc cannot be imagined without Mamata or the Trinamool; in Punjab, the two sides are not discounting some sort of an electoral understanding

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Seven months after its formation, the Indian National Democratic, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) is facing its grimmest crisis, reeling under the twin blows dealt by the Trinamool Congress and Aam Aadmi Party as they decided against having any truck with the Congress in West Bengal and Punjab, respectively. However, INDIA leaders are not exactly despondent with the prospect of divisions in the two States as it may help in blunting the anti-incumbency sentiments faced by the two ruling parties.

The breakdown of the alliance in West Bengal was anticipated, with the Congress’s local unit – headed by the party’s Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury – relentlessly attacking the Trinamool, especially Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and the prevarication of its Delhi leadership.

“On December 19, at the INDIA meet in Delhi, we had told them that we can offer only two seats. We gave them 12 days to get back to us by December 31. It has been more than a month since. In fact, for the past two weeks, there has been no conversation at all. In the meantime, Mr. Chowdhury carried on making nasty statements about our leadership to which none of our top leaders responded,” a senior Trinamool leader said.

Mamata Banerjee, Rahul Gandhi, Sitaram Yechury, Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann during an INDIA bloc meeting. FILE PHOTO

The Trinamool’s offer of two seats in West Bengal was based on the Congress performance in the previous two Lok Sabha elections where the party garnered less than 4% of the vote share across the State, except in the two constituencies which it won. “We could have perhaps conceded one or two more seats had they shown us the same grace in Assam and Meghalaya,” the Trinamool leader added. But the Congress leadership in Delhi continued to drag its feet. At the same time, the Trinamool sources added that they would continue with the courtesies expected from INDIA allies.

The Congress responded without rancour, with Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh reiterating former party chief Rahul Gandhi’s words that the INDIA bloc cannot be imagined without Ms. Banerjee or the Trinamool. “Mamata Banerjee has stated that she will not leave any stone unturned to defeat the BJP. And it is with this spirit that we are entering West Bengal. And when you go on a long journey, you sometimes encounter a few speed breakers or a traffic light. It doesn’t mean that our journey will conclude, it will go on,” Mr. Ramesh said at a press conference in Assam. He also indicated that the Congress had not given up talks. A middle way will be found and the INDIA bloc will fight together in the State, he said.

In Punjab, both the AAP and Congress State units were dead set against an alliance. In Punjab though, the two sides are not ruling out some sort of electoral understanding. “On select seats, where the BJP or Akalis are strong, we can have an understanding to support each other. But there is no need for a pan-Punjab seat division,” a top-ranking AAP leader explained.

Govt. cannot choose which law to follow, says Supreme Court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said Parliament is a “supreme, eternal and indivisible entity in a democracy” and the Union government or its law officer cannot say they will not follow a law enacted by Parliament.

The oral remarks from Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, who is heading a seven-judge Bench, came after Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the government, said he did not accept a 1981 amendment in the Aligarh Muslim University Act, conferring the varsity with minority status.

The CJI said it would be “radical” for a law officer, appearing for the government, to refuse or disagree with a law validly passed by Parliament.

“Parliament is indestructible, supreme and eternal irrespective of who forms the Union government... It is radical when a law officer for the government to say it does not stand by what the Parliament has done... How can you say you do not accept the validity of the amendment?” the CJ Chandrachud asked.

The Solicitor-General pointed to the constitutional amendments brought in by Parliament during the Emergency era curtailing freedoms and rights.

Jan. 22 event shows India’s belief in rule of law: V-P

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The consecration ceremony of the Ram Lalla idol at Ayodhya is India’s “tryst with divinity” and the day reflected the country’s firm belief in the rule of law, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Wednesday.

Mr. Dhankar was addressing an event of the Law Ministry to launch the ‘*Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman*’ (Our Constitution, our respect) campaign.

The Vice-President said he was pained that young children had not been exposed to the original copy of the Constitution, which had contained miniature paintings of Lord Ram, Lord Krishna and Lord Buddha.

The V-P also spoke about “issues” that arise between the executive, the judiciary and the legislature, but that they needed to be ironed out in a structured manner.

Manipur group sets peace terms for Chief Minister and MLAs

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI/IMPHAL

The Imphal Valley has a total of 39 MLAs, while the surrounding hills have 20 MLAs

The Arambai Tenggol (AT), a Meitei radical group allegedly at the forefront of the ethnic conflict in Manipur, on Wednesday extracted a pledge from MLAs across the State’s Imphal Valley to “convey the concerns of the people” to the Centre.

The AT had a week ago summoned all the Valley-based MLAs, including Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh and his Congress predecessor Okram Ibobi Singh to the historic Kangla Fort in the State’s capital Imphal to discuss a six-point demand.

The Imphal Valley, dominated by the non-tribal Meitei community, has a total of 39 MLAs, while the surrounding hills have 20 MLAs divided between the Naga and the Kuki-Zo tribes. Jiribam, a largely plain area adjoining southern Assam beyond the hills, yields the 60th legislator.

“The MLAs assured us that they will convey the concerns of our people to the Centre within 15 days to ensure peace in Manipur,” AT chief Koroungana Khuman said.

“Our demands include the removal of the Suspension of Operations (SoO), the implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), fencing of the border with Myanmar, the replacement of the Assam Rifles by another force, and the removal of Kuki illegal immigrants from the Scheduled Tribe (ST) list,” Mr. Khuman said.

The SoO agreement was signed between the Centre, the Manipur government, and two conglomerates of Kuki-Zo militant outfits in 2008.

₹8,500-crore aid for coal gasification

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday said it has approved an outlay of ₹8,500 crore as financial aid for promotion of coal/lignite gasification projects. The decision was taken during a Cabinet meeting under the chairmanship of PM Narendra Modi.

Delhi HC closes plea against Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday closed a petition seeking registration of an FIR against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for revealing the identity of an alleged nine-year-old rape victim on X, after the court was informed that the post has been taken down by the Congress leader.

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Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
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Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites: **www.tnpl.com/ www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

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GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES ZONE, JAIPUR
No. 142 Date: 09/01/2024

Corrigendum no. 1
NIT no - 25/2023-24

With reference to the Bid invited for “Rehabilitation of Chandsen Medium Irrigation Project District Tonk” work Vide office letter no 4287 dated 06.12.2023 of this office, has been extended due to Indispensable reason upto 24.01.2024 at 06:00 PM and technical bid will be open on dated 25.01.2024 at 3:00 PM.

These changes/amendments may be seen on procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.raj.nic.in of the state.

NIB no: WRD2324A0580
UBN no: WRD2324WLOB01695

Additional Chief Engineer
Water Resources Zone
Jaipur

DIPR/C/287

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - Tender Notice
O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Electrical Circle, Haripad, Alapuzha

E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_642903_2
PAC: 9,79,22,714/- Last Date- 05.02.2024 11.00am
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_644241_1
PAC: 9,49,25,300/- Last Date- 08.02.2024 05.00pm
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_647225_1
PAC: 5,18,52,994/- Last Date- 16.02.2024 05.00pm
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_647427_1
PAC: 8,98,17,050/- Last Date- 19.02.2024 05.00pm
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_647841_1
PAC: 6,44,50,245/- Last Date- 20.02.2024 05.00pm
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_647941_1
PAC: 10,34,66,339/- Last Date- 22.02.2024 05.00pm
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_648080_1
PAC: 12,10,81,043/- Last Date- 24.02.2024 05.00pm

O/o the Executive Engineer, P.M.U,Electrical Circle, Haripad, Alapuzha
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_645563_1
PAC: 4,39,76,043/- Last Date- 12.02.2024 05.00pm

O/o the Deputy Engineer, Electrical Circle,Tirur Malapuram
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_645995_1
PAC: 19,86,00,000/- Last Date- 09.02.2024 05.00pm
Visit **www.kseb.in** Ref : **PR/MC1/E456/E-tender/2024**

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NIB NO-42/2023-24

Bids for **“Construction of Court Complex Building at Rajgarh (Alwar)”** in Alwar District are invited from interested bidders upto 6-00 PM on 09-02-2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state; and http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 925.79 lacs.

UBN- PWD2324WLOB18083

Addl. Chief Engineer
PWD Zone-II, Jaipur
DIPR/C/262

INBRIEF

Adani Group razes Air India colony; residents protest

The Gautam Adani-led Mumbai International Airport Ltd. (MIAL) started the demolition of 20 uninhabited, dilapidated structures at the Air India Colony at Kolivery village in Santacruz of Mumbai. In March 2022, barely a month after Air India was handed over to Tata Sons, MIAL issued a notice to the airlines asking it to surrender land that is not core to its operations. These colonies were home to 1,600 families. According to the MIAL spokesperson, the demolition was conducted "in strict adherence to the law and accordance with the permission/handover granted by AIAHL, the PSU asset holding company of erstwhile Air India".

Assam Rifles jawan shoots self after injuring six colleagues

An Assam Rifles jawan shot himself on Wednesday after opening fire at and injuring six of his colleagues deployed close to the India-Myanmar border in Manipur. The condition of the injured personnel, evacuated to a military hospital, was reported to be stable. Taking to X, the Manipur Police said all the injured men were non-Manipuris. "In light of the ongoing ethnic strife in Manipur, it is important to share the details of the incident transparently to dispel any potential rumours and avoid any speculation. This incident should not be correlated with the ongoing conflict, given the fact that none of the injured are from Manipur," it said.

MoD inks ₹1,070-crore deal for 14 patrol vessels for ICG

The Defence Ministry has on Wednesday signed a contract worth over ₹1,070 crore with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, for 14 Fast Patrol Vessels (FPV) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). "These multi-role FPVs will be indigenously designed, developed and manufactured by MDL under Buy (Indian-IDDM) Category and will be delivered in total 63 months," the Ministry said. Along with several high-tech advanced features and equipment, these FPVs will be equipped with multipurpose drones, wirelessly controlled remote water rescue craft lifebuoy and Artificial Intelligence (AI) capability etc., it stated.

Four cubs born to Namibian cheetah, not three: Minister

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Wednesday said Namibian cheetah Jwala has given birth to four cubs at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, and not three as earlier announced. Mr. Yadav on Tuesday in a post on X said the cheetah has given birth to three cubs. The Minister said, "Wildlife wonders! As frontline wildlife warriors managed to get closer to Jwala, they found she has given birth to four, not three, cubs. This has increased our joy several times over. Congratulations all." "We pray the cubs thrive and prosper at their home in India," he said. According to officials, the cubs were born to Jwala on January 20. PTI

Centre releases three-drug regimen for treating leprosy

Government aims at stopping transmission of leprosy at the sub-national level by 2027; the new regimen will replace two-drug medication for six months; this was conveyed to States on Jan. 17

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union government has approved a new treatment regimen for leprosy, aiming at stopping its transmission at the sub-national level by 2027. A letter written by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) said the National Leprosy Eradication Programme is taking all the required steps to stop the transmission of the infection.

"Now with the approval of the competent authority, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has decided to introduce a three-drug regimen for Pauci-Bacillary (PB) cases in place of a two-drug regimen for six months," the letter written by Sudarshan Mandal, Deputy Director-General, DGHS, said.

The January 17 letter said that the move follows the "latest, globally accepted scientific research studies and evidence-based practices".

It further added that the World Health Organization (WHO) had agreed to supply the revised drug regimen from April 1, 2025.

Doctors say that there is no need for three-drug regimen and the third medicine has its own side effects. FILE PHOTO

Thus, all States and Union Territories have now been asked to send their requisitions for anti-leprosy drugs 12 months beforehand. The revised classification of leprosy and the treatment regimen for PB and multi-bacillary (MB) cases in India will be implemented from the same date.

The WHO says leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*. The bacteria are transmitted via droplets from the nose and mouth during close and frequent contact with untreated cases. Leprosy, reported from all the six WHO regions, is curable with multi-drug therapy (MDT). The majority of new cases detected are from Southeast Asia.

The letter also states that PB patients have fewer bacteria visible and show no signs of advanced disease in biopsies, while MB patients have visible bacteria and may show signs of more advanced disease in biopsies. "We believe that this new treatment regimen for leprosy patients will mark a significant step forward in our collective efforts to eradicate leprosy in India by 2027," it said.

The WHO's recommended treatment regimen consists of three drugs – dapsone, rifampicin and clofazimine. The combination is referred to as MDT. The duration of treatment is six months for PB and 12 months for MB cases. MDT kills the pathogen and cures the infection.

The WHO has been providing MDT free of cost. Free MDT was initially funded by the Nippon Foundation and since 2000, it has been donated through an agreement with Novartis. This regimen is known as 'Uniform MDT', where a single three-pack kit can be given to all leprosy patients.

This measure facilitates ease of administration. Healthcare experts say it makes it easier for the manufacturers, too.

Asked about the need for the three-drug regimen, Kabir Sardana, Professor, Dermatology, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, explained that it was true there was no specific need as such for three drugs since the two-drug regimen had adequate efficacy. Moreover, as relapses are low in PB MDT, three drugs are not strictly needed. The third drug – clofazamine – also causes its own side effects, the most disconcerting of which is the red colour of the skin, Dr. Sardana said.

French President to attend 'shobha yatra' in Jaipur today

Kallol Bhattacherjee
JAIPUR

A 'shobha yatra', or public procession, in Jaipur is expected to be the high point of French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to the pink city.

Upon arriving in Jaipur on Thursday afternoon, he will visit the Amber Fort and the Jantar Mantar – both iconic tourist destinations of Rajasthan – before proceeding for the 'shobha yatra' with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The two leaders will then meet in the evening at Taj Rambagh Palace. Mr. Macron will be accompanied by a ministerial delegation comprising Stéphane Sejourné (Europe and Foreign Affairs), Sébastien Lecornu (Armed Forces), and Rachida Dati (Culture).

Jaipur has been chosen by the Indian hosts as the first stopover for the French President, who will be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade in New Delhi. In terms of symbolism, the 'shobha yatra' is an innovation in hospitality during the annual celebrations. The French usually like to showcase regions of India with which they have old connections.

Emmanuel Macron

In 2016, during the visit of former President Francois Hollande, Chandigarh was chosen as a venue outside Delhi, where Mr. Modi and Mr. Hollande had met, because of its Le Corbusier connection.

In Jaipur, however, the visiting French President is unlikely to deliver a speech during the 'shobha yatra'. He is also scheduled to visit Hawa Mahal, a landmark structure in the old city.

Mr. Macron will leave Jaipur late on Thursday and arrive in Delhi for the Republic Day parade at the Rajpath on Friday. He will also attend the "At Home" reception by President Droupadi Murmu. He is scheduled to hold a meeting with Ms. Murmu late in the evening before going back. Mr. Macron had come to India on a state visit in March 2018 and on an official visit in September 2023 for the G-20 summit.

Top court gets new judge; to function with full strength

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Wednesday notified the appointment of Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Prasanna Bhalachandra Varale as a judge of the Supreme Court. Justice Varale is scheduled to be sworn in by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Thursday.

His appointment has filled the sole vacancy in the court which had arisen with the retirement of Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul on December 25 last year. The sanctioned judicial strength of the court is 34. The collegium had recommended his appointment as an top court judge in a resolution on January 19. Justice Varale has served as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Karnataka from October 15, 2022. He

Justice Prasanna B. Varale

is currently the only High Court Chief Justice from a Scheduled Caste community. He is also the seniormost High Court judge belonging to a Scheduled Caste.

Justice Varale's parent High Court is Bombay. He was appointed as a Bombay High Court judge on July 18, 2008. The collegium resolution said Justice Varale was a judge of "unimpeachable conduct and integrity" with 23 years of legal practice before his appointment as a High Court judge.

Top U.S. officials to come to India to discuss bilateral ties and Quad dates

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Top U.S. diplomats will travel to Delhi this week to discuss bilateral issues, energy cooperation and possible dates for the Quad Summit with U.S.-Australia-Japan-India leaders and shore up ties amidst speculation of a 'pause' in the past few months.

According to sources, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu will travel to Delhi for the meetings, and to attend the U.S.-India Forum organised by think tank Ananta Centre. Amongst other officials expected to attend the closed-door seminar, which will be off-limits to the public and the media, are Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources Geoffrey Pyatt, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, Pentagon officials,

Donald Lu

officials from the White House National Security Council dealing with India and with climate issues, and U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra and Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan are expected to address the forum slated from January 27 to 29 on the Indian side.

Mr. Lu is also expected to discuss the Quad agenda for the upcoming year, where India is the Chair of the grouping. New Delhi had earlier proposed to hold the summit this weekend, on January 27, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had invited U.S. President Joseph Biden as chief guest for Republic Day. However, after the U.S. declined the invitation last month, French President Emmanuel Macron agreed to step in.

Election seasons

The U.S. decision to turn down the Republic Day invite, and the allegations in the Pannun matter had led to speculation over trouble in the India-U.S. relationship.

In addition, possible dates for the Quad summit are unclear as both the U.S. and India enter their election seasons, with the possible window in February fast closing. The U.S. officials in Delhi, who are expected to be followed by other senior White House and National Security Council officials in February for the MEA and ORF-organised Raisina Dialogue from February 21 to 23, will seek to keep up the momentum in ties from 2023, when Mr. Modi travelled to the U.S. for a state visit and concluded a number of agreements.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department announced a visit by Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources Geoffrey R. Pyatt from January 26 to 31 to Delhi and Hyderabad to address the Forum and to speak about India and the U.S.'s "shared agenda around energy transition, reliable supply chains, and energy security."

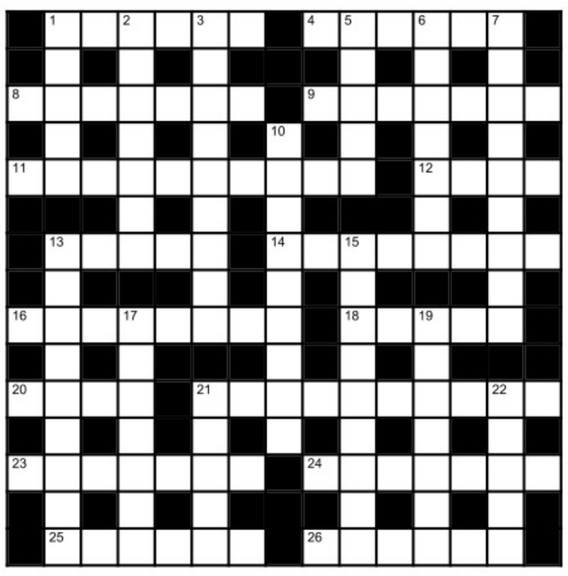
Mr. Pyatt had visited India in 2022 and 2023 to discuss similar issues, as well as to speak about the need to abide by the G-7-EU and Australia "price caps" on Russian oil, and sanctions against Russia over the Ukraine war.

TH CROSSWORD + 14080

(set by Bruno)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Style of some pathetic US tomboy (6)
4 Holy man at America has prestige (6)
8 Lower prices of apparel showing wide rip at the edges (7)
9 Before noon, turn around ship (7)
11 Scientist's concerned with small trine finally appearing over Sagittarius (10)
12 Find space computer infected with viruses at the core (4)
13 Cognac's flowing endlessly... dance! (5)
14 Sits oddly on passage's steps (8)
16 Online video starting to take one at college on the sun's path (8)
18 Hoard of money reported (5)
20 Commanding officer's fine with mess officer? (4)
21 Pandemic's silent - spreading through gym and church (10)
23 Ground's emergency room relocated to the back by coach (7)
24 Performance of middle violinist blocked in from the back (7)
25 Weapon put on the counter to obtain piece of gold (6)
26 Before end of June, 4 Ac finally goes bust (6)

Down

1 Worm - one's tail is found at the bottom of food (5)
2 Professional extracts last fillet from fish (7)
3 Religious old boy's assistant (9)
5 Concentration of small bird's on rock-dove's upturned wings (5)
6 Professional at bar all year... often (7)
7 Please cut out conjecture (9)
10 Most of psychic's absurd intuitions lack contents - mainly trash: scientist (9)
13 City banks get lot in credit on 10D's instrument (9)
15 Professional artist put up church's lattice - city's left shocked! (9)
17 Indication of fish's black liquid in front (7)
19 Revolutionary spy agency's last agent - 10D's counterpart? (7)
21 Plea often ignored by girl - that's irritating (5)
22 Box's extract from Socrates (5)

SUDOKU

9				6				
			8			5		9
	6		3		7	1		2
		2					3	
	3		7	4	2		1	
	9					2		
3		9	5		8		4	
1		8			6			
				7				8

No.SS6048 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	7	5	9	8	3	4	2
5	9	2	6	4	3	7	8	1
3	4	8	1	2	7	5	9	6
8	1	5	2	7	4	6	3	9
9	2	6	3	5	1	4	7	8
7	3	4	8	6	9	2	1	5
2	7	3	9	1	5	8	6	4
6	8	1	4	3	2	9	5	7
4	5	9	7	8	6	1	2	3

FAITH

Value of learning

Ancient Tamil literature tells us that scholarship is the only jewel worth possessing, said Malayaman in a discourse. The Jain work Naladiyar says that one may have a thick head of hair. One may wear a garment that drapes elegantly. But far more beautiful than any of these is education.

Yet another Tamil work called Eladhi says a waist of just the right width, broad shoulders, an excellent physique, majestic gait – none of these constitutes beauty. Education is what adds to a person's appeal. Sirupanchamoolam says that while we may think that lustrous hair, perfect nails and symmetrical teeth are what make a person attractive, this is far from true.

Scholastic excellence is what confers dignity on a person. Thirukkural says that a man may be handsome, but if he has no learning, then his handsomeness is as lifeless as the frozen look of a doll.

Later Tamil works too stress the need for education. Saint Kumaraguruparar (17th century) authored Needhi Neri Vilakkam. In this work he says that when a man has scholarship, there is no need for any other jewel. Reading good literature helps get rid of traits like envy and greed. Education is wealth that cannot be stolen. We can teach others what we know. This will not deplete our wealth of knowledge.

INBRIEF

Indian Bank Q3 standalone net jumps 52% to ₹2,119 crore

Indian Bank reported standalone net profit for the December quarter rose 52% to ₹2,119 crore from the year-earlier period due to growth in interest income. Net interest income increased 6% to ₹5,815 crore and fee based income by 21% to ₹852 crore. Net interest margin stood at 3.49% (3.47%), the public sector lender said in a statement. Gross non-performing assets decreased by 206 basis points (bps) to 4.47%, while net NPA reduced by 47 bps to 0.53%.

IOB Q3 standalone net rises 30% on interest income

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) reported standalone net profit for the December quarter rose 30% to ₹723 crore from the year earlier period due to rise in interest income and higher recovery from technically written-off accounts. Total income of the bank grew by 24% to ₹7,437 crore. Interest income increased by 22% to ₹6,176 crore, while non-interest income stood at ₹1,262 crore against ₹950 crore. Net interest margin contracted to 3.12% from 3.27%, the lender said. The bank's gross NPA ratio declined to 3.9% from 8.19%, while net NPA declined to 0.62% from 2.43%. Provision coverage ratio was at 96.85% (91.34%).

Indian firms can directly list on GIFT IFSC exchanges: govt.

In a significant move, the government permitted the direct listing of securities by Indian companies on international exchanges of GIFT IFSC to boost foreign investments. The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) in the Ministry of Finance has amended Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules and notified the 'Direct Listing of Equity Shares of Companies Incorporated in India on International Exchanges Scheme'. Also, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has issued Companies (Listing of Equity Shares in Permissible Jurisdictions) Rules, 2024. PTI

Flash PMI signals rebound in economic momentum in Jan.

Overall industrial and services activity is at a four-month high, while new orders have risen the fastest in six months, a new survey-based HSBC Flash India Composite PMI Output Index shows

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Private sector industrial and services activity rebounded this month as per a new HSBC Flash India PMI, which showed new orders rose in January at the fastest pace in six months, while overall activity levels were at a four-month high.

The headline HSBC Flash India Composite PMI Output Index – a new seasonally adjusted index that measures the month-on-month change in the combined output of India's manufacturing and services sectors – was at 61 in January, compared with 58.5 in December. The Flash PMI, unveiled on Wednesday, is based on responses from about 75% to 85% of 800 services and industry firms that are surveyed each month to arrive at the comprehensive PMI that is available in the first week of the subsequent month.

Flashing green
Private sector industrial and services activity rebounded this month as per a new HSBC Flash India Purchasing Managers' Index

- The HSBC Flash India Composite PMI Output Index was at 61 compared with 58.5 in December
- Flash PMI is based on responses from about 75-85% of 800 services, industry firms that are surveyed each month
- Operating capacities remained under pressure, encouraging firms to hire additional workers

Pressure on capacities
"Operating capacities remained under pressure, encouraging firms to hire additional workers," S&P Global and HSBC India said in a statement. "Another factor that underpinned job creation was a pick-up in business confidence. The inaugural flash results also highlighted an intensification of cost pressures, but selling prices were raised to a smaller extent."

"The inaugural Flash India PMI showed that both the manufacturing and services sector grew at a faster clip in January," HSBC economists Pranjul Bhandari and Aayushi Chaudhary wrote in an accompanying note. "Of the two, business services grew at a faster clip, in fact the fastest in four months," the two economists added.

Canara Bank Q3 net profit rises 26.9%

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Canara Bank reported a 26.9% YoY increase in third-quarter net profit to ₹3,656 crore as against ₹2,881.52 crore clocked in the previous year, despite rise in employee cost, retiree benefits payouts and other expenses, the lender said on Wednesday.

Net interest income rose to ₹9,417 crore, a 10% increase. Other income rose 7.7% year-on-year to ₹4,295.1 crore. Asset quality improved with gross non-performing assets (NPA) declining to 4.39% from 5.9% a year earlier, while net NPA improved to 1.32%, from 1.96% YoY.

Tata Steel returns to profit, reports Q3 PAT at ₹522 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Steel Ltd.'s reported third quarter consolidated net profit grew to ₹522 crore from a net loss of ₹2,502 crore in the same period last year due to robust performance of the Indian business.

Consolidated revenues for the quarter stood lower at ₹55,312 crore, compared with ₹57,084 crore in the year ago period, down 3%.

The India business reported net profit of ₹4,429 crore compared with ₹1,786 crore in the year ago period. Turnover grew to ₹35,011 crore from ₹34,059 crore in the year ago period.

Netherlands revenues were £1,239 million and EBITDA loss stood at £117 million. Liquid steel production was broadly stable at 1.19 million tons (mt) but lower on YoY basis due to the reline of one of the blast furnaces at Ijmuiden. Deliveries stood at 1.30 mt and were up 5% QoQ basis, the company said in a filing with exchanges.

Tata Steel said on Jan. 19 that it would commence statutory consultation on the proposed restructuring of the UK business as part of its transition to an economically and environmentally sustainable future.

T. V. Narendran, CEO & MD in a statement said, "Global operating environment has been complex, with economic slowdown in China and geopolitics weighing on commodity prices in general. During this quarter, China has exported between 7 to 8 mt of steel every month, which is the highest since 2015 and this has adversely impacted global steel prices as well as profitability."

Zee asks Sony to withdraw termination of merger, urges NCLT to act

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEEL) on Wednesday asked Culver Max Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. (formerly Sony Pictures Networks India Private Ltd.) (Culver Max) and Bangla Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. (BEPL) to immediately withdraw their termination of the Merger Co-operation Agreement (MCA) and confirm that they would perform their obligations to give effect to and implement the Merger Scheme that had been sanctioned by the National Company Law Tribunal.

ZEEL asserted in a filing that Culver Max and BEPL were in default of their obligations to give effect to and implement the scheme. The media company also denied that it was in breach of its obligations under the MCA and reiterated that it had complied with all its obligations in good faith.

"The company has denied that Culver Max and BEPL are entitled to terminate the MCA and the claim for termination fee is legally untenable and has no basis whatsoever," ZEEL said in the filing.

It has also approached the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal seeking directions to implement the merger scheme and has initiated appropriate legal action to contest Culver Max and BEPL's claims in the arbitration proceedings before Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC).

ZEEL shares gained 6.7% on the BSE on Wednesday to close at ₹166.35.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	71,060	0.98
US Dollar	83.12	0.03
Gold	63,200	-0.07
Brent oil	79.93	-0.49

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2903.45	6.90
Adani Ports	1120.60	-16.50
Apollo Hosp	6213.35	59.60
Asian Paints	2999.45	-55.25
Axis Bank	1059.15	-30.10
Bajaj Auto	7212.85	116.95
Bajaj Finserv	1620.85	38.35
Bajaj Finance	7055.30	-15.40
Bharti Airtel	1189.95	31.95
BPCL	477.15	14.10
Britannia Ind	5142.25	94.15
Cipla	1417.35	8.35
Coal India	382.60	7.30
Divis Lab	3643.55	28.20
Dr Reddys Lab	5902.10	227.70
Eicher Motors	3635.00	18.30
Grasim Ind	2071.30	21.70
HCL Tech	1576.40	52.75
HDFC Bank	1455.90	28.55
HDFC Life	581.65	-4.50
Hero MotoCorp	4433.65	-10.55
Hindalco	565.15	23.75
Hind Unilever	2441.65	66.10
ICICI Bank	999.20	-29.85
IndusInd Bank	1490.85	49.15
Infosys	1675.40	33.25
ITC	463.60	4.30
JSW Steel	812.20	21.80
Kotak Bank	1788.60	4.10
L&T	3589.20	38.20
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5619.55	-18.95
M&M	1628.10	32.90
Maruti Suzuki	9988.20	127.75
NestleIndia	2513.95	51.05
NTPC	308.85	6.25
ONGC	234.35	4.45
PowerGrid Corp	246.20	8.25
Reliance Ind	2687.75	30.60
SBI Life	1410.55	35.05
State Bank	618.30	13.20
Sun Pharma	1382.10	3.80
TataConsumerProduct	1159.00	13.35
Tata Motors	810.90	10.45
Tata Steel	135.15	5.05
TCS	3841.80	-16.45
Tech Mahindra	1407.95	41.30
Titan	3767.85	28.20
UltraTech Cement	9990.50	159.50
UPL	545.75	10.65
Wipro	478.05	8.15

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 24

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.87	83.19
Euro	90.16	90.51
British Pound	105.08	105.48
Japanese Yen (100)	56.01	56.23
Chinese Yuan	11.52	11.56
Swiss Franc	95.33	95.70
Singapore Dollar	61.78	62.03
Canadian Dollar	61.50	61.76
Malaysian Ringitt	17.55	17.64
Australian Dollar	54.65	54.86

Source:Indian Bank

NMDC raises iron ore prices again by ₹400 a tonne

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

State-owned mining major NMDC increased iron prices by ₹400 per tonne with effect from January 24.

This is the second revision this month by NDMC, taking lump ore price to ₹6,000 a tonne and fine ore to ₹5,310.

India's largest iron ore producer raised prices on Jan. 2 by ₹200 per tonne of lump ore to ₹5,600 and by ₹250 to ₹4,910 for the same quantity of fines. Iron ore is key input for steel and price increase reflects rise in demand.

TVS Motor Q3 net rises 68% to ₹593 cr. as sales increase

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

TVS Motor Company's standalone net profit for the December quarter rose 68% from the year-earlier period to ₹593 crore on improved sales.

Revenue from operations grew by 26% to ₹8,245 crore, while cost of raw materials increased to ₹5,696 crore, from ₹4,882 crore, the automobile firm said in a regulatory filing.

Profit before tax grew 63% to ₹775 crore.

On Wednesday, the board recommended the reappointment of K.N. Radhakrishnan, director, who is to retire by rotation at the ensuing Annual General Meeting.

The board has recommended the reappointment of director K.N. Radhakrishnan

Lakshmi Venu steps out
Lakshmi Venu, meanwhile, will not seek reappointment as director, due to her increased responsibilities and commitments in TAFE and TVS Holdings Ltd., the company said.

IOC Q3 net surges 18-fold, revenue dips

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation reported third-quarter standalone net profit surged 18-fold year-on-year to ₹8,063.39 crore even as revenue from operations dipped a tad.

Net profit was, however, lower on a sequential basis. IOC had posted a profit of ₹12,967.32 crore in the September quarter.

Revenue from operations rose to ₹2,23,012.37 crore (from Q2's ₹2,02,312.04 crore) but was lower than ₹2,28,168.34 crore in Q3 FY23. IOC shares closed 3.24% higher at ₹143.50 on the BSE on Wednesday.

Rating agency ICRA had highlighted marketing margins on retail sales of auto fuels for the oil marketing firms had improved in recent weeks amid a slide in crude prices. The pump prices of petrol and diesel have remained unchanged since May 2022.

Rubber industry seeks uniform GST rate of 18%

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The All India Rubber Industries Association has sought uniform GST for rubber items and thermoplastic products for automotive parts.

In its budget demands submitted to the government, the Association said if the parts are made of thermaplastics, the rate is 18%, whereas if they are made of rubber, the rate is 28%. The GST should be brought down to a uniform 18%, the Association demanded.

TVS MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED

TVS

Regd office: "Chaitanya", No. 12, Khader Nawaz Khan Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 006
Website:www.tvsmotor.com Telephone No. (044) 28332115 Email:contactus@tvsmotor.com
CIN:L35921TN1992PLC022845

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

(Rs. In Crores)

S. No	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Year ended
		31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.03.2023	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.03.2023
		(Unaudited)		(Audited)	(Unaudited)		(Audited)
1	Total income from operations	8,318.41	6,551.91	26,478.66	10,125.82	8,075.06	32,111.99
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional items)	775.02	475.47	2,003.37	750.23	464.55	1,937.90
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	775.02	475.47	2,003.37	750.23	463.84	1,936.03
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	593.35	352.75	1,491.03	509.61	303.64	1,309.46
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income / (Loss) (after tax)]	604.41	368.56	1,463.35	540.26	378.48	1,368.74
6	Paid up Equity share capital (Face value of Re.1/- each)	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	6,000.34	-	-	5,457.49
8	Security Premium Account	- NOT APPLICABLE -					
9	Networth	7,615.14	5,881.96	6,038.35	6,744.77	5,350.71	5,422.76
10	Outstanding Debt	1,162.83	1,537.27	2,010.23	23,360.48	18,705.37	19,775.04
11	Outstanding redeemable Preference Shares	- NOT APPLICABLE -					
12	Debt Equity Ratio (Times)	0.2	0.3	0.3	3.4	3.4	3.6
13	Earnings Per Share (Face value of Re. 1/- each) (not annualised) (i) Basic (in Rs.) (ii) Diluted (in Rs.)	 12.49 12.49	 7.42 7.42	 31.38 31.38	 10.08 10.08	 6.33 6.33	 27.97 27.97
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -					
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -					
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) (Times)	2.1	5.8	5.0	0.9	3.5	2.9
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) (Times)	18.3	16.0	15.2	9.6	8.0	8.2
18	Current Ratio (Times)	0.7	0.7	0.6	1.1	1.1	0.9
19	Long term debt to working capital (Times)	-	-	-	2.3	2.8	3.0
20	Bad debts to Accounts Receivable ratio (Times)	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Current liability ratio (Times)	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.7
22	Total debts to total assets ratio (Times)	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.6
23	Debtors Turnover ratio (Times)	28.7	26.8	27.0	27.5	26.8	26.3
24	Inventory Turnover ratio (Times)	17.8	17.5	17.0	11.6	12.1	11.7
25	Operating Margin (%)	11.2	10.1	10.1	10.4	9.1	9.1
26	Net Profit Margin (%)	7.2	5.4	5.7	5.0	3.8	4.1

Notes:

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock exchange websites (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.tvsmotor.com).
2. Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

For TVS Motor Company Limited
Sd/-
Prof. Sir Ralf Dieter Speth
Chairman

Date : 24th January 2024

SEOUL

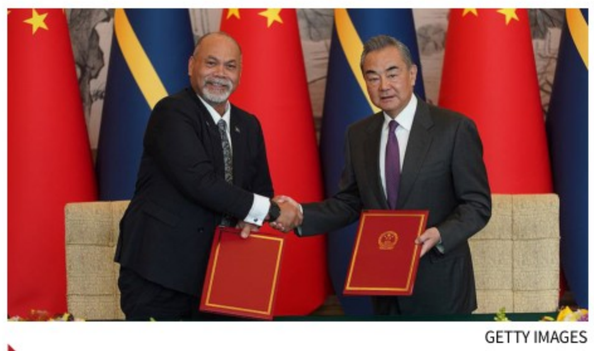
North Korea fires several cruise missiles towards Yellow Sea

AFP

North Korea fired several cruise missiles towards the Yellow Sea on Wednesday, Seoul's military said, the latest in a series of moves that are bound to raise tensions. Pyongyang has accelerated weapons testing in the New Year, including tests of an "underwater nuclear weapon system" and a solid-fuelled hypersonic ballistic missile. AFP

BEIJING

Nauru restarts ties with China after severing relations with Taiwan

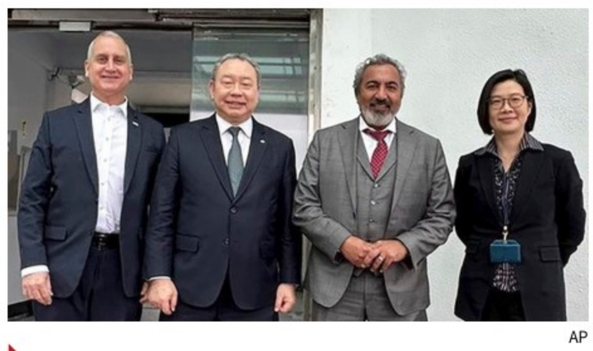


GETTY IMAGES

China and Nauru formally re-established diplomatic relations on Wednesday, after the tiny South Pacific nation cut ties with Taiwan. China's top diplomat Wang Yi and his Nauru counterpart Lionel Aingimea held a signing ceremony in Beijing. Nauru was one of the few countries to recognise Taiwan on a diplomatic basis. AFP

TAIPEI

U.S. lawmakers arrive in Taiwan for the second such visit this month



AP

Two U.S. lawmakers arrived in Taipei on Wednesday in a show of support after the self-ruled island' s recent high-stakes presidential election. U.S. Representatives Ami Bera and Mario Diaz-Balart, co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, reached Taipei in what is the second visit by U.S. officials this month. AFP

COLOMBO

Sri Lankan Parliament approves controversial Online Safety Bill

AFP

Sri Lankan Parliament on Wednesday approved with amendments the controversial Online Safety Bill that seeks to regulate online content amid criticism that it will stifle freedom of speech. The new legislation would set up the Online Safety Commission which is empowered to make punitive rulings on offences. PTI

U.S. strikes Iran-backed armed groups in Iraq

Agence France-Presse
BAGHDAD

U.S. forces bombed sites used by Iran-backed militants in Iraq early on Wednesday after a spate of attacks targeting U.S. personnel, Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin said, killing two persons, according to Iraqi officials.

The strikes came just days after U.S. troops in western Iraq were targeted by militants who the U.S. says were supported by Tehran.

The U.S. strikes targeted the Hezbollah Brigades, a group affiliated with the Hashed al-Shaabi, an alliance of Iran-backed former paramilitary groups now integrated in Iraq's regular armed forces.

They hit sites in the Jurf al-Sakhr area, south of Baghdad, as well as in the Al-Qaim area on the border with Syria.

Month-long ceasefire in the works between Israel, Hamas

Hamas insistent on permanently ending the war, which has become a thorny issue in the talks; Health Ministry in Gaza says at least 195 Palestinians killed in the past 24 hours in the enclave

Reuters
DOHA/GAZA/JERUSALEM

Israel and Hamas have moved closer to an agreement on a 30-day ceasefire in Gaza when Israeli hostages and Palestinians prisoners would be released, sources said, as Israel pressed ahead with its assault on southern Gaza's main city of Khan Younis.

Qatar, the U.S. and Egypt have held shuttle diplomacy since December 28 seeking to bridge differences between Israel and the militant group on a framework for a break in hostilities, which would also allow an increase in humanitarian aid to Gaza.

But the two sides remain at odds over how to permanently end the Gaza war, and Hamas has refused to move forward until this is resolved, the sources said.

Waiting game: Palestinians stand by the border fence with Egypt in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Wednesday. AFP

The U.S. State Department and White House, Qatar's Foreign Ministry and Egypt's State Information Service did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Meanwhile, in its biggest operation in a month, the Israeli military pressed ahead with encircling Khan Younis where hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians are sheltering.

Israeli tanks on Tuesday shut the road from Khan Younis towards the Mediterranean coast, blocking the escape route for civilians trying to reach Rafah on Gaza's southern edge bordering Egypt – now crammed with more than half the enclave's 2.3 million people.

Militants' toll

Israeli forces killed more than 100 militants in western Khan Younis in 24 hours, military spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said on Tuesday evening. Israel says it has killed around 9,000 militants in total.

Palestinian health officials said at least 195 Palestinians were killed over the prior 24 hours, raising the documented death toll to 25,490. Thousands more are feared lost in the rubble.

Houthis fired missiles at two ships in Red Sea: U.S.

Agence France-Presse
DUBAI

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels fired three missiles at two merchant ships in the Red Sea on Wednesday in their latest attack in the commercially vital waterway, the White House said.

The report came after the Houthis vowed to keep up their attacks despite repeated U.S. and British strikes against them.

One missile missed its target and a U.S. Navy destroyer shot down the other two, National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said.

U.S. Central Command said the missiles were fired "toward the U.S.-flagged, owned, and operated container ship *M/V Maersk Detroit*" without mentioning a second vessel being targeted. No injuries or damage to the ship were reported, CENTCOM added.

Danish shipping giant Maersk earlier said two ships belonging to a U.S. subsidiary and bound for the Red Sea turned back after hearing explosions while transiting the Bab al-Mandeb strait between the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

A U.S. Navy escort accompanying the *Maersk Detroit* and the *Maersk Chesapeake* also "intercepted multiple projectiles", the company said.

The U.S. and Britain have carried out two rounds of joint strikes this month aimed at reducing the Houthis' ability to target shipping.

Relentless pursuit: Houthis have kept up their attacks despite repeated U.S. and British strikes against them. REUTERS

U.S. attack

The U.S. military has also launched a series of unilateral air raids on the rebels' missiles.

It said its latest strikes early on Wednesday destroyed two Houthi missiles that posed an "imminent threat" to ships in the area.

Gold mine collapses in Mali, killing more than 70 of 200 inside

Agence France-Presse
BAMAKO

More than 70 people have been killed after a tunnel collapsed at a Malian gold mining site last week, local sources said on Wednesday.

Mali, which is among the world's poorest countries, is one of Africa's leading gold producers.

Gold mining sites are regularly the scene of deadly landslides and authorities struggle to control artisanal mining of the precious metal.

"It started with a noise. The earth started to shake," Oumar Sidibe, an official for gold miners in the southwestern town of Kangaba, said on Friday.

"There were over 200 gold miners in the field. The search is over now. We've found 73 bodies," he said.

Turkiye ratifies Sweden's NATO membership after protracted delay

Agence France-Presse
ANKARA

Hungary remains the only country to approve the Nordic nation's NATO membership

Turkiye's Parliament on Tuesday ratified Sweden's NATO membership after more than a year of delays that upset Western efforts to show resolve in the face of Russia's war on Ukraine.

Lawmakers voted 287-55 in favour of the Nordic nation's attempt to become the 32nd member of the security alliance after it won the public backing of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The Turkish leader is expected to sign Sweden's ratification document and conclude Ankara's role in the protracted saga in the coming days.

"Today we are one step closer to becoming a full member of NATO," Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said on social media after the vote.

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg welcomed Turkey's move and called on Hungary to do the same, urging Budapest to "complete its national ratification as soon as possible".

Positive signs

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Wednesday said he reaffirmed in a phone call with Mr. Stoltenberg his "support" for Sweden's membership to the security alliance. On Tuesday, Mr. Orban also sent a letter to Mr. Kristersson inviting him to Budapest to discuss the bid "at your earliest convenience".

The U.S. also applauded the Turkish Parliament's vote, with National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan saying on social media that Sweden's addition to NATO will make the alliance "safer and stronger".

Thailand's court acquits reformist ex-PM candidate Pita

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

Thailand's Constitutional Court on Wednesday cleared thwarted prime ministerial candidate Pita Limjaroenrat of violating election law in a case that could have seen him banned from politics, reinstating him as an MP.

The 43-year-old led the progressive Move Forward Party (MFP) to win the most votes in last year's general election, but was blocked from becoming Prime Minister after he was suspended as a lawmaker in July.

Eight to one verdict

The Constitutional Court ruled by eight votes to one that Mr. Pita had not broken rules banning members of parliament from owning shares in media companies.

Sport

Nominees for *Sportstar* of the Year (Female) award

Sports Bureau

Indian sports had many moments to cherish in 2023.

It is time to celebrate these landmark moments and achievements at the *Sportstar* ACES Awards. Here are the nominees for the *Sportstar* of the Year (Female).

Olympic bronze medal-winning boxer **Lovlina Borgohain** was crowned the World Champion in the women's 75kg category, becoming only the second Indian woman, after Mary Kom, to medal at the Olympics and the Worlds.

Lovlina shifted from 69kg (in which she won the Olympic bronze medal) to 75kg.

At the Asian Games, she won silver, losing to Li Qian in the final, but secured a spot to the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Parul Chaudhary ended 2023 with three National records – women's 3000m (8:57.19), 3000m steeplechase (9:15.31), and 5000m (15:10.35) – and an Asian Games silver and gold medal in the women's 3000m steeplechase and 5000m, respectively.

She also had an impressive World Championships, where she registered a personal best in the 3000m steeplechase to qualify for the final.

She then proceeded to smash Lalita Babar's National record in the final, where she finished 11th to qualify for the Olympics

Esha Singh, along with Shiva Narwal, topped the 10m air pistol mixed team field at the World Shooting Championships to become the only gold medallist in an Olympic category.

She also clinched the gold medal in the 25m pistol women's team event at the Championships.

In Hangzhou, Esha won two gold and two silver medals, including an individual gold and silver, helping India to its best-ever campaign in shooting in the tournament.

Archer **Jyothi Surekha Vennam** bagged six medals in the Archery World Cup, including four gold and two bronze medals. At the World Championships, she won gold with the women's team and bronze in the individual event.

At the Asian Games, she completed a treble of gold medals in women's individual, mixed team, and women's team, helping India to its best-ever showing in compound archery at the Asiad.

Born with Phocomelia, a disorder causing underdeveloped limbs, **Sheetal Devi** is the world's first armless woman archer (Open Compound).

She became the world record holder in the women's doubles event at the Para Worlds.

At the World Archery Para Championships, she clinched a silver medal, making her the first female armless archer to do so.

She also won three medals (two gold, one silver) at the Hangzhou Asian Games and finished the year as World No.1.

The voting lines for the 2034 Aces Awards will close on January 31.

Kiran, Lakshya, and Priyanshu advance; Prannoy and Srikanth exit

INDONESIA MASTERS

Press Trust of India
JAKARTA

Lakshya Sen, Kiran George, and Priyanshu Rajawat advanced to the second round but H.S. Prannoy and K. Srikanth made early exits at the Indonesia Masters Super 500 badminton on Wednesday.

The results (first round):

Lakshya Sen bt Weng Hong Yang (Chn) 24-22, 21-15; Kiran George bt Junior Popov (Fra) 18-21, 21-16, 21-19; Priyanshu Rajawat bt Rasmus Gemke (Den) 21-18, 21-9; Loh Kean Yew (Sgp) bt H.S. Prannoy 21-18, 19-21, 21-10.

Lee Zii Jia (Mas) bt K. Srikanth 19-21, 21-14, 21-11.

It's Shamrock vs. Santorino in the feature event

BENGALURU: Shamrock and Santorino may fight out the finish of the Bangalore Race Course 161st Year Commemoration Trophy (1,600m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Thursday (Jan. 25). False rails (width about 4.25m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 GATEWAY OF INDIA PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 1-15 p.m.: 1. Breeze Bluster (8) Darshan 60, 2. Treasure Chest (2) Srinath 58.5, 3. Blue God (5) Antony 58, 4. Everyone Godfather (7) B. Harish 58, 5. Palomino (6) G. Vivek 58, 6. Sea Jack (4) B. Nayak 58, 7. El Alamein (3) R. Pradeep 57, 8. Sunlit Path (1) Trevor 57 and 9. Elizabeth Regina (9) P. Surya 55.5.
1. SUNLIT PATH, 2. BLUE GOD, 3. TREASURE CHEST

2 SADDLE UP CUP (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 1-50: 1. Meghann (5) Tousif 60, 2. Crimson Star (3) Vivek 59.5, 3. Air Blast (2) M. Prabhakaran 59, 4. Amazing Luck (1) Rayan 59, 5. Dawn Rising (8) I. Chisty 58.5, 6. Bellissimo (6) M. Naveen 58, 7. Perfect Halo (7) M. Rajesh K 57 and 8. Sacred Creator (4) Angad 57.
1. BELLISSIMO, 2. DAWN RISING, 3. SACRED CREATOR

3 STEWARDS GOLD CUP (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over 2-25: 1. Disruptor (3) Inayat 61.5, 2. Solo Prince (6) P. Siddaraju 59.5, 3. Air Display (2) Vivek 58, 4. Maple Leaf (1) P. Trevor 58, 5. Classic Charm (12) I. Chisty 57, 6. Chul Bul Rani (10) Darshan 56.5, 7. Excellent Ray (8) Suraj 56, 8. Southern Force (5) S. Saqlain 56, 9. Osiris (9) Afsar Khan 53.5, 10. Lauterbrunnen (7) M. Rajesh K 53, 11. The Grey Geranium (4) P. Surya 52.5 and 12. Jokshan (11) G. Vivek 51.5.
1. EXCELLENT RAY, 2. MAPLE LEAF, 3. CLASSIC CHARM

4 SRIKANTADATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 80 & above, 3-00: 1. Dun It Again (3) Koshi K 60, 2. Salento (1) Antony 55.5, 3. Moon's Blessing (4) F. Norton 54.5, 4. Last Wish (5) I. Chisty 52.5 and 5. Peyo (2) Salman Khan 52.
1. SALENTO, 2. LAST WISH

5 G. NITYANAND MEMORIAL BANGALORE WINTER MILLION (1,200m), 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-35: 1. Knotty Legend (6) Trevor 57, 2. Rieko (1)Antony 57, 3. Scarlette Lady (3) G. Vivek 55.5, 4. Flight On (2) S. Shareef 53, 5. Priceless Prince (7) Ashok K 53, 6. Finley (4) F Norton 51.5 and 7. Magnetic (5) I. Chisty 51.5.
1. KNOTTY LEGEND, 2. RIEKO, 3. FINLEY

6 BANGALORE RACE COURSE 161ST YEAR COMMEMORATION TROPHY (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4-10: 1. Shamrock (1) Suraj 60, 2. De Villiers (4) Trevor 55, 3. Santorino (2) L.A. Rozario 55 and 4. Auspicious Queen (3) Angad 50.
1. SHAMROCK, 2. SANTORINO

7 WINFAIR247 SPORTS GAMING PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 4-45: 1. Rightly Noble (6) Koshi K 61.5, 2. Maroon (10) Chethan K 60, 3. Indian Blues (4) G. Vivek 59.5, 4. Chisox (1) P. Siddaraju 58, 5. Kallu Sakkare (7) R. Pradeep 58, 6. Remontoir (9) Ram Nandan 58, 7. The Strikingly (8) M. Naveen 57, 8. Phoenix Surprise (3) Inayat 56.5, 9. Benzema (5) Salman Khan 55, 10. My Solitaire (11) Arvind K 53, 11. Firefinch (12) L.A. Rozario 50.5 and 12. Eco Friendly (2) Tousif 50.
1. INDIAN BLUES, 2. THE STRIKINGLY, 3. KALLU SAKKARE

8 GATEWAY OF INDIA PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-20: 1. Agera (8) R. Pradeep 61.5, 2. Step To Destiny (3) Vivek 61.5, 3. Rainbow Dreamer (9) S. John 61, 4. Isabelle (2) L.A. Rozario 58.5, 5. Wonder Woman (1) Darshan 57.5, 6. Lady Invictus (6) Inayat 57, 7. Nevada Gold (5) G. Vivek 57, 8. Regal Aristocracy (7) Antony 56.5 and 9. Alacero (4) Arvind K 55.
1. REGAL ARISTOCRACY, 2. NEVADA GOLD, 3. ISABELLE

Day's best: KNOTTY LEGEND
Double: EXCELLENT RAY – SHAMROCK
Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i): 3, 4 and 5; (ii): 6, 7 and 8.

VOTE FOR YOUR MOMENT OF THE YEAR

Chhetri and a customary gesture

Controversy, and a sigh of relief for Jyothi Yarraji

Determination, Sheetal's forte

Kohli on Mt. 50

Neeraj nahi tho Jena hai na!

SPORTSTAR ACES 2024
INDIA TRIUMPHS
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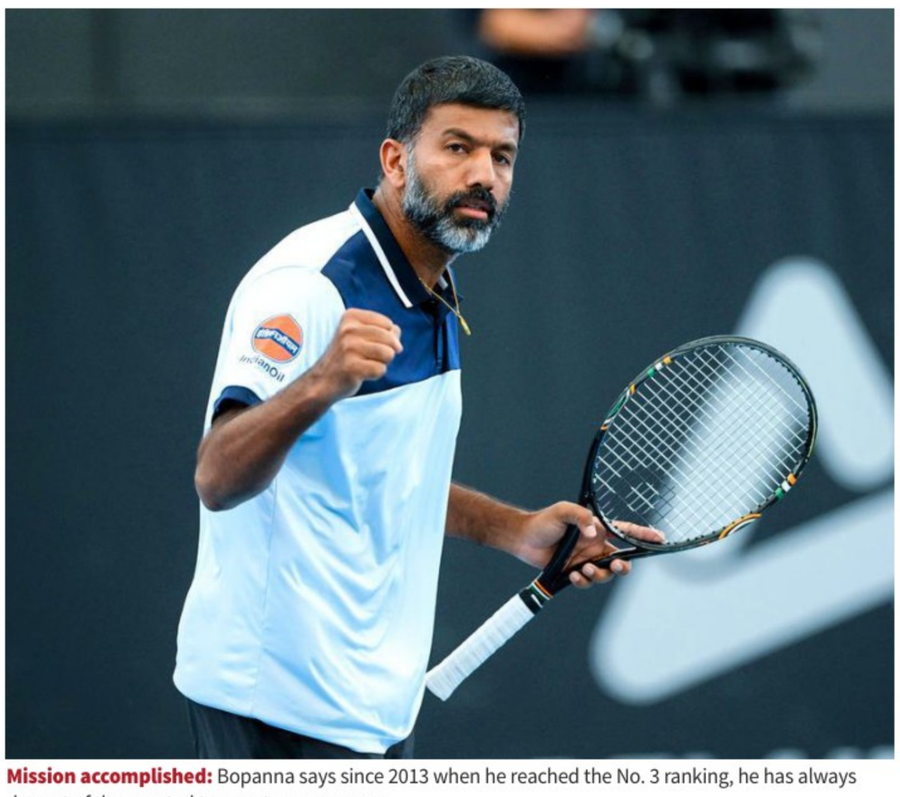
Scan the QR code, vote for your favourite stars, and take part in the aces sports quiz. Top 3 winners every day will win gift vouchers.

Bopanna all set to become No. 1, the oldest among men's doubles players to do so

It is not an overnight achievement, you have to perform week in and week out and my last year has proved that, says the 43-year-old veteran who reached eight finals in 2023

TRIBUTE

N. Sudarshan


Mission accomplished: Bopanna says since 2013 when he reached the No. 3 ranking, he has always dreamt of the coveted top spot. GETTY IMAGES

Sportspersons tend to believe that even at the fag end of their careers, they still have the talent to revive the pleasures associated with their once pristine pasts. Delusional as it may sound, it is often the magic potion that keeps them going.

Rohan Bopanna has long been convinced by this, and on Wednesday at the Australian Open, he tasted salvation following his 6-4, 7-6(5) quarterfinal victory (with partner Matthew Ebden) over Argentines Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni.

Come Monday, the 43-year-old is set to be crowned the new World No. 1, a career-high ranking which will also make him the oldest top-ranked men's doubles player. The previous record was held by Mike Bryan (41), and Bopanna will join three other illustrious Indians in Mahesh Bhupathi, Leander Paes and Sania Mirza to reach the pinnacle.

"I am very proud," Bopanna said during a virtual media interaction on Wednesday. "It is not an overnight achievement. You have to perform week in and week out. And my last year has proved that."

In 2023, Bopanna played some of the best tennis of his life. He made eight finals, including two at Grand Slams after a gap of five years – with Sania Mirza in Australian Open mixed doubles and with Ebden in US Open men's doubles. He won two titles, at Indian Wells Masters and Doha ATP 250.

He finished the year No. 3, a ranking he last reached way back in 2013. In that decade between the two highs, Bopanna said he always dreamt of the coveted top spot.

"I did, especially when I was No. 3 a decade ago and it was so close to the top. Little did I know that I would do it 11 years later. Having an Indian at No. 1 can may be inspire other young guys to pick up a racquet, or a sport, or just in life in general."

Bopanna's two decades as a professional is a tribute to his persistence, for sporting careers can sometimes gratuitously grind to a halt.

"End of 2019, I was on two or three painkillers a day. The thought of stopping did cross my mind. In 2021, in the first four months, I didn't win a match (seven straight defeats). As a player, sometimes you feel that the journey is done. But I found newer ways to persevere and I am proud of that."

Bopanna's former Davis Cup captain Anand Amritraj was wholesome in his praise. "It's an unbelievable effort to be No. 1 at any age, more so at 43!" he told *The Hindu*. "He follows in the line of great Indian doubles players, but only a few have been No.1. When I was Davis Cup Captain, he was an inspiration to all of us. Congrats to him."

Zverev ousts Alcaraz to move into last four against Medvedev; Zheng enters her first semifinal

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Associated Press
MELBOURNE

Big one: Zverev's win over Alcaraz was his first over a top-5 player at a Grand Slam. REUTERS

Alexander Zverev made no mistake with his second chance to close out a win over No. 2-ranked Carlos Alcaraz on Wednesday night and moved into an Australian Open semifinal against two-time finalist Daniil Medvedev.

The sixth-seeded Zverev was a up a break in the third set at 5-3 and missed a chance to serve it out but the Olympic champion didn't blink when he got another chance in the fourth, finishing off a 6-1, 6-3, 6-7(2), 6-4 victory.

Alcaraz won Wimbledon last year and was the only player to beat 10-time Australian Open winner Novak Djokovic in a Grand Slam match in 2023. The 20-year-old Spaniard won't get the chance in Australia this time.

It was Zverev's first win over a top-5 player at a Grand Slam.

"Look, I'm playing one of the best players in the world, especially over the last two years," Zverev said. "He's been No. 1, No. 2 constantly. He's won two Grand Slams. And when you're up 6-1, 6-3, 5-2, you start thinking. I mean, we're all human.

"Then when you start winning, obviously your brain starts going. It's not always helpful but I'm happy I got it at the end. I fought back quite well in the end, didn't let go."

Medvedev, a two-time finalist in Australia, outlasted ninth-seeded Hubert Hurkacz 7-6(4), 2-6, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 to make it to the semifinals at Melbourne Park for the third time in four years. Djokovic will play Jannik Sinner in the other semifinal.

Zverev said he'd been taking some beatings from Medvedev recently but "maybe this will be it. Maybe this will be the place."

No. 12-seeded Zheng Qinwen and Ukrainian qualifier Dayana Yastremska won women's quarterfinals on Day 11 and will play their first Grand Slam semifinal when they meet after a night sleep.

The women's semifinal lineup was completed when Zheng won 10 of the last 11 games to fend off Anna Kalinskaya 6-7(4), 6-3, 6-1 and Yastremska beat Linda Noskova 6-3, 6-4. Defending champion Aryna Sabalenka and U.S. Open winner Coco Gauff will meet in the other semifinal.

The 19-year-old Gauff beat Sabalenka in the U.S. Open final and is on a 12-match streak in Majors. Sabalenka is on a 12-match winning run at Melbourne Park.

Zheng, a U.S. Open quarterfinalist last year, regained control midway through the second set after Kalinskaya won six of the last seven points to take the first set in a tiebreaker.

"Really excited. First time for me," in the semifinals, Zheng said. "Of course I'm proud of myself. But this is just the beginning – I still need to play tomorrow."

No. 93-ranked Yastremska won three matches in the qualifying tournament and became only the second qualifier to reach the women's singles semis in Australia in the Open era.

"It's nice to make history because at that time I was not born," she said. "I'm super happy (but) very tired."

QUARTERFINAL RESULTS

Men: 3-Medvedev (Rus) bt 9-Hurkacz (Pol) 7-6(4), 2-6, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4; 6-Zverev (Ger) bt 2-Alcaraz (Esp) 6-1, 6-3, 6-7(2), 6-4.
Women: Yastremska (Ukr) bt Noskova (Cze) 6-3, 6-4; 12-Zheng (Chn) bt Kalinskaya (Rus) 6-7(4), 6-3, 6-1.

Rohit's men out to maintain enviable record as Bazball faces its biggest test

ENGLAND IN INDIA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
HYDERABAD

Making a point: Skipper Rohit having a chat with teammates during practice. K.V.S. GIRI

During five manic weeks of the English summer of 2022, Test cricket was turned on its head by a maverick coach-captain duo.

Four Tests were won, back-to-back, by chasing targets ranging from 277 to 378, at run-rates ranging from 3.53 to 5.98.

Bazball had arrived. And Bazball has survived.

The next seven weeks, however, will tell us how this fearless brand of cricket conceptualised and executed by Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes could cope up with its biggest challenge yet: the tour of India.

The Indians haven't lost a Test series at home after 2012. They have, in fact, won 16 successive home series after that. In the 46 Tests that India hosted from 2013, it won 36 and lost just three.

They must be hoping to maintain that enviable record as they take on England in the five-match series. The first Test gets underway at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here on Thursday.

The entire cricket world must be curious to find out how the relentlessly attacking England batters will deal with India's potent spin attack on – what could very well be – turning tracks.

The visitors seem convinced that the pitch here will have plenty of turn. They have included three front-line spinners in their playing eleven. They have another excellent option in Joe Root – he had taken five for eight in the third Test at Ahmedabad three years ago.

Left-arm spinner Jack Leach was the pick of that England attack, with 18 wickets. The other spinners have played just one Test between them. Tall left-arm spinner Tom Hartley is making his debut, while leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed had made his, a year ago in Pakistan with a five-wicket haul in the second innings.

One of the stars of England's 3-0 whitewash of that series, Harry Brook, has flown back home though. It is a setback, but the batting line-up still looks formidable.

England could take heart that India is without its best batter. Virat Kohli has withdrawn from the first two Tests because of personal reasons (he has been replaced by Rajat Patidar). But in familiar conditions, Rohit Sharma, K.L. Rahul, Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shreyas Iyer could ensure enough runs for the Indian bowlers, among whom the focus could well be on R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel.

It will be intriguing to find out how they spin the ball against Bazball.

Meanwhile, England's uncapped spinner Shoaib Bashir, whose visa had been delayed and thus was ruled out of the first Test at Hyderabad, is expected to reach India by the weekend. The Pakistani-origin player had to return home from England's base in Abu Dhabi, while the rest of the team travelled to India, but he has since received the visa.

The teams:

India (from): Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, K.L. Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, K.S. Bharat, Ravindra Jadeja, R. Ashwin, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Dhruv Jurel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mukesh Kumar, Avesh Khan and Rajat Patidar.

England: Ben Stokes (Capt.), Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Jonny Bairstow, Ben Foakes, Rehan Ahmed, Tom Hartley, Jack Leach and Mark Wood.

Umpires: Chris Gaffaney and Paul Reiffel; **TV umpire:** Marais Erasmus; **Reserve umpire:** Rohan Pandit; **Match referee:** Richie Richardson.

Match starts at 9.30 a.m.

I wouldn't say we are not beatable: Rohit

P.K. Ajith Kumar
HYDERABAD

Crunch time: Gill will hope to get back his form. K.V.S. GIRI

To beat India in India could well be the hardest thing to do in international cricket at the moment. No team could boast the kind of stellar record that India has in Tests over the last decade at home, but captain Rohit Sharma stressed on Wednesday that his team wasn't unbeatable.

"Whatever record we have in the past decade or so gives us the guarantee that we are going to come out on top here as well and win the series," Rohit said at a press conference on the eve of the first Test against England here. "We still have to play our best cricket that we know that we play in these conditions."

He pointed out that England was the last team that won a Test series in India . "I wouldn't say we are not beatable, we definitely are," he said. "If we don't step up or if don't show up, well, we are going to find ourselves in trouble."

About Bazball, Rohit said: "We look to play our cricket, and I am not interested in looking at how the opposition is going to play," he said. "We need to focus on what we need to do as a team, and take it from there."

He said he felt for Shoaib Bashir, who could not join the England team in time for the first Test because of a delay in getting his visa.

"Unfortunately, I don't sit in the visa office and can't give you more details on that," he said.

We are going into the first Test with just one seamer: Stokes

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Ben Stokes. K.V.S. GIRI

"We don't want to go into the Test match with any preconceived ideas about the pitches, we have to adapt to the given conditions," England captain Ben Stokes said on Wednesday,

Stokes said the team expected the pitches to take turn here. "Well, it is unfortunate that off-spinner Shoaib Bashir couldn't make it for the Test match here (because of a visa issue) but I hope he would join us soon," Stokes said.

The England captain said looking at the wicket here for the first Test, he was eagerly waiting for left-arm spinner Tom Hartley who will be making his Test debut.

"He was very impressive in the build-up for this Test series in Abu Dhabi," he said.

"We are going into the first Test with just one seamer – Mark Wood. We hope he would be able to reverse swing and 90 miles per hour should be very difficult to play," he said.

"We look for short and sharp spells. But again things might change and he could well bowl long spells too," Stokes said.

India-England H2H in Tests

	Played	India	England	Drawn
Overall	131	31	50	50
In India	64	22	14	28

THE SCHEDULE

Jan. 25-29: Hyderabad | **Feb. 2-6:** Visakhapatnam
Feb. 15-19: Rajkot | **Feb. 23-27:** Ranchi | **Mar. 7-11:** Dharamshala

All Tests start at 9.30 a.m.

INBRIEF

Ashu Malik helps Dabang Delhi beat Haryana Steelers

Ashu Malik pulled off two raid points in the dying seconds to help Dabang Delhi defeat Haryana Steelers 35-32 in the Pro Kabaddi League in Hyderabad on Wednesday. In another match, Tamil Thalaivas beat Telugu Titans 54-29.

Suryakumar named ICC T20I Player of the Year for 2023

Big-hitting batter Suryakumar Yadav was on Wednesday named the T20I Player of the Year for a second consecutive time by the ICC, which described him as the "backbone of India's middle order" in the format. Suryakumar did quite well in 2023 with an average that closed in on 50 and a strike rate exceeding 150. New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra was named Emerging Cricketer.

Winfair247 Bangalore Derby to be richest-ever

The 51st edition of the Bangalore Winter Derby, to be run as 'Winfair247 Bangalore Derby' on January 26, will be the richest-ever winter derby at the Bangalore Turf Club with a prize money of ₹170.85 lakh. The winner and owner will take home a trophy and rich purse of ₹83,72,504.

Manas Dhamne loses in the first round to Yaroslav Demin

Qualifier Manas Dhamne lost 6-4, 6-2 to Yaroslav Demin in the first round of the $15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Manacor, Spain.

Newcastle's Joelinton out until May after thigh surgery

Newcastle could be without Joelinton for the rest of the season after the Brazil midfielder underwent surgery on a thigh injury. The team said on Tuesday that Joelinton is expected to make his return sometime in May. Its last Premier League game is on May 19.

Durga and Sarnaliya shatter 1500m records

Twins Anslin and Akslin catch everybody's attention with a one-two in the girls' 800m; TN claims squash titles in both sections

KHELO GAMES

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Stellar show: The Tamil Nadu boys' and girls' teams, which won the squash team titles while (*right*) Anslin and Akslin make it a memorable night. M. VEDHAN, B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Two new meet records were created in the 1500m athletics event in both the boys' and girls' categories at the 6th Khelo India Youth Games here on Wednesday.

Durga Singh of Bihar (4:29.22) and Muskan (Rajasthan) (4:33.95), who finished first and second in girls' 1500m, broke the previous record held by Sneha (4:35.45) set in 2020. Only Durga's record will be considered.

In the boys' 1500m, Rahul Sarnaliya of Uttarakhand erased the previous mark of Arjun Waskale (3:51.57, 2022) by running in a time of 3:51.12.

Earlier, the twin sisters from Kanyakumari, M. Anslin and M. Akslin caught everybody's attention, finishing first and second in the girls' 800m.

Tamil Nadu, meanwhile, won both the boys and girls' squash team titles, beating Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra respectively.

The results: Athletics: Boys: 100m: 1. Mohammad Reyan Basha (Odi) 10.81s; 2. J. Gokul Pandiyan (TN) 10.89; 3. Pratik Maharana (Odi) 10.95; **800m:** 1. Vinod Kumar Banoth (TS) 1:51.61; 2. J. Bejoy (Ker) 1:52.09; 3. T. Baljeet (Har) 1:54.23.

1500m: 1. Rahul Sarnaliya (Utk) 3:51.12 (NMR) (OR: Arjun Waskale, Panchkula, 3:51.57); 2. Priyanshu (Utk) 3:54.013; 3. Mayank Yadav (Raj) 3:57.68.

Hammer throw: Ommkar Prasad Nanda (Odi) 65.08m; 2. Yashas Kurbar (Kar) 64.12; 3. Nikhil Yadav (Har) 61.96; **shot put:** 1. Ommkar 18.48m; 2. Nikhash (Har) 17.99; 3. K.C. Servan (Ker) 17.41; **high jump:** 1. C. Tharun Vikash (TN) 2.01m; 2. Basant (Raj) 2.01; 3. Juwel Thomas (Ker) 2.01.

Girls: 100m: 1. Siya Sawant (Mah) 12.10; 2. Abinaya Rajarajan (TN) 12.21; 3. Rujula Bhonsle (Mah) 12.23; **800m:** 1. M. Anslin (TN) 2:11.36; 2. M. Akslin (TN) 2:11.54; 3. Priyanka Olekar (Kar) 2:12.12; **1500m:** 1. Durga Singh (Bih) 4:29.22 (NMR) (OR: Sneha, Guwahati, 4:35.45); 2. Muskan (Raj) 4:33.95; 3. Sejalben Katara (Guj) 4:42.03; **triple jump:** 1. Paveena Rajesh (TN) 12.10m; 2. Pamila Varshini (TN) 11.84; 3. P. Abhirami (Ker) 11.78; **discus throw:** 1. Nikita Kumari (Raj) 46.26m; 2. Riddhi (Har) 44.78; 3. Bhakti Gawade (Mah) 43.67.

Cycling: Keirin: Boys: 1. Vedant Jadhav (Mah); 2. Atharva Patil (Ker); 3. Vedant Tajane (Mah); **Girls:** 1. Vimla Machra (Raj); 2. Heisnam Prenika Chanu (Man); 3. R. Tamilarasi (TN).

Gymnastics: Boys: Vault: 1. Aaryan Davande (Mah) 13.200; 2. D. Harschit (UP) 13.200; 3. Siddhant Konde (Mah) 12.950; **Parallel Bars:** 1. Aaryan 12.500; 2. Pranav Mishra (UP) 12.333; 3. Krish Gupta (MP) 12.100; **Horizontal Bar:** 1. Subhadeep Patra (WB) 11.700; 2. Pranav 11.700; 3. Harschit 11.667.

Girls: Floor: 1. Shatakshi Takke (Mah) 11.500; 2. Nishika Agarwal (Tel) 11.500; 3. Diya Thakore (Guj) 11.267.

Shooting: Boys: 10m Air Pistol: 1. Samrat Rana (Har) 242.8; 2. Jonathan Gavin Anthony (Kar) 241.8; 3. Anshul (Raj) 221.3.

Squash: Team (finals): Boys: Tamil Nadu bt Uttar Pradesh 2-0.

Girls: Tamil Nadu bt Maharashtra 2-0.

In Coimbatore: Basketball: Semifinals: Boys: Tamil Nadu bt Punjab 75-61; Rajasthan bt Uttar Pradesh 90-69.

Girls: Tamil Nadu bt Madhya Pradesh 78-65; Punjab bt Maharashtra 81-72.

India's young turks keen to show intent against Ireland

Press Trust of India
BLOEMFONTEIN

India's young turks would be aiming for a more proactive approach while batting when they take on Ireland in the second group league encounter of the ICC U-19 World Cup here on Thursday.

While India disposed off Bangladesh by 84 runs, the Ireland game will provide an opportunity to play differently before tougher opposition comes calling during the Super Six phase starting next week.

On a slowish Bloemfontein track, Indian batters would need to rotate the strike better and also find more gaps in the Powerplay overs.

Praggnanandhaa joins Gukesh, two others in the lead

CHESS

Sports Bureau

It was time for an unbeaten R. Praggnanandhaa to join the leaders after overpowering women's World champion Ju Wenjun in the ninth round of the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament in Wijk aan Zee, near Amsterdam, on Tuesday.

When the action resumed after a day's rest, all five decisive games saw the winners emerge from the white side. The surprise losers of the day included Ian Nepomniachtchi and Alireza Firouzja, seeded two and three.

D. Gukesh stayed in the lead following a draw with compatriot Vidit Gujrathi. But it was Praggnanandhaa who made it by delivering an impressive tactical punch in 33 moves. Interestingly, his only victory in the previous eight rounds was against another Chinese, World champion and top seed Ding Liren.

While Anish Giri remained among the leaders after a draw with Ding, Nodirbek Abdusattorov replaced one of the overnight leaders, Firouzja, to regain his spot among the front-runners.

Abdusattorov prevailed over Dutchman Jorden van Foreest, Wie Yi stunned Nepomniachtchi and Alexander Donchenko brought down an inconsistent Firouzja.

Mendonca in second

In the Challengers category, Leon Mendonca moved to second after beating Jaime Santos Latasa.

Divya Deshmukh lost to leader Marc Andria Maurizzi and D. Harika surrendered to Hans Moke Niemann.

The results, ninth round: Masters: R. Praggnanandhaa (5.5) bt Ju Wenjun (Chn, 3.5); D. Gukesh (5.5) drew with Vidit Gujrathi (5); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 5.5) bt Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 3); Ding Liren (Chn, 3.5) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 5.5).
Alexander Donchenko (Ger, 3.5) bt Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 5); Wei Yi (Chn, 5) bt Ian Nepomniachtchi (FIDE, 4.5); Parham Maghsoodloo (Iri, 3.5) bt Max Warmerdam (Ned, 4).

Challengers: Leon Mendonca (6) bt Jaime Santos Latasa (Esp, 4.5); D. Harika (3.5) lost to Hans Moke Niemann (USA, 5); Marc Andria Maurizzi (Fra, 6.5) bt Divya Deshmukh (3.5); Daniel Dardha (Bel, 5.5) bt Salem Saleh (UAE, 5). Erwin L'Ami (Ned, 5.5) drew with Mustafa Yilmaz (Tur, 3.5); Stefan Beukema (Bel, 2.5) lost to Anton Korobov (Ukr, 5.5); Eline Roebers (Ned, 2) lost to Liam Vrolijk (Ned, 4.5).

SNAPSHOTS

India plays out a 2-2 draw against France

CAPE TOWN: The Indian men's hockey team drew 2-2 against France in its second game of the Four-Nation tournament here on Wednesday.

Mandeep Singh (eighth minute) and Amit Rohidas (19th) scored for India, while France scored through Timothee Clement (37) and Gaspard (59).

India beats Poland

MUSCAT: Deepika Soreng and Mumtaz Khan scored a brace each as India eked out a 5-4 win over Poland in its opening Pool C match of the FIH Hockey5s Women's World Cup here on Wednesday.

Mariana Kujur was the other scorer for India.

Poland's goals were scored by Julia Kucharska, captain Marlena Rybacha, Paula Slawinska and Monika Polewczak.

India will next play USA.

Padikkal, Akashdeep put India-A in control

AHMEDABAD: Devdutt Padikkal hit a stroke-filled 92 not out after right-arm pacer Akash Deep shone bright with the ball with a four-wicket haul as India-A took control of the four-day second unofficial Test against England Lions on the opening day here on Wednesday.

In reply, the Indian opening duo of Padikkal and skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran (53 not out off 96) found it easy against the English attack as they scored runs without much trouble to take the hosts to 150 for no loss.

The scores: England Lions 152 in 52.4 overs (Oliver Price 48; Akash Deep 4/46) vs India-A 150 for no loss in 32 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 92 batting, Abhimanyu Easwaran 53 batting).

East Bengal in final after subduing Jamshedpur FC

SUPER CUP

Amitabha Das Sharma
BHUBANESWAR

East Bengal defeated Jamshedpur FC 2-0 in the first semifinal of the Kalinga Super Cup here on Wednesday to make it to the title round of the national-level tournamen.

East Bengal will meet the winner of the second semifinal between Odisha FC and Mumbai City FC to be played on Thursday, in the title clash scheduled on Sunday.

East Bengal seemed to begin where it left off in the group league stage which it topped by winning all the three matches with emphatic performances.

Set-piece opener

The red-and-gold brigade found the opening off a set-piece situation in the 19th minute when Saul Crespo reached Hijazi Maher with a smart cut-back to see the Jordanian defender tapping home.

It was Brazilian Cleiton Silva's corner, which was partially cleared by Provat Lakra, that set up the opportunity for East Bengal.

On target: East Bengal's Siverio about to score his team's second goal. BISWARANJAN ROUT

A spell of unseasonal downpour just before the start made the teams hesitant about going full steam initially but the action got intense as the match wore on. Jamshedpur tried to regroup midway through the match and almost got the equaliser in the 30th minute but for the acrobatic effort of East Bengal goalkeeper Prabhsukhan Gill, who cleared Rei Tachikawa's powerful attempt diving to his left.

East Bengal ensured that Jamshedpur did not make a comeback after the break as it found the insurance goal in the 47th minute.

A combination between Nandhakumar Sekar and Nishu Kumar opened the goal route for Javier Siverio, who found the Jamshedpur net with a smart flick that outwitted the opponent goalkeeper T.P. Rehenesh. East Bengal had the chance to make it 3-0 but Cleiton saw his penalty attempt coming off the cross-piece in the 82nd minute.

The result: Semifinal: East Bengal 2 (Hijazi Maher 19, Javier Siverio 47) bt Jamshedpur FC 0.

Nithya Mani makes the main draw

WTT

Jonathan Selvraj
MAPUSA

Former India U-19 champion Nithya Mani upstaged a number of more established compatriots as she became only Indian singles player to make the main draw of WTT Star Contender Goa 2024 here on Wednesday.

The 21-year-old fought back from a 2-1 deficit against England's three time Commonwealth Games medallist and World No. 150 Ho Tin-Tin to win 11-7 6-11 5-11 11-9 11-7 in the final round of the women's singles category.

Doubles teams advance

Three Indian pairs – Jeet Chandra and Paras Jain in men's doubles, Taneesha Kotecha and Sayali Wani in women's doubles, Manush Shah and Diya Chitale in mixed doubles – joined Mani in the main draw

"When I was 2-1 down, I didn't panic. I didn't show any emotions. I stayed calm for each point. I'm usually a person who expresses a lot. So for me to stay calm on the table can be challenging. When things don't go our way is when we have to stay calm and I think I was able to do that today," said Mani.

National Champion Ayhika Mukherjee lost to Turkey's Sibel Altinkaya 11-5, 9-11, 6-11, 6-11, Sutirtha Mukherjee went down 8-11, 7-11, 12-10, 4-11 to Japan's Ryu Hana, and G. Sathiyan suffered a 7-11, 11-7, 6-11, 11-7 8-11 loss to France's Vincent Picard.

The results: Men: Vincent Picard bt G. Sathiyan 11-7, 7-11, 11-6, 7-11, 11-8; Ibrahima Diaw bt Manav Thakkar 12-10, 11-6, 11-7.

Doubles: Jeet Chandra & Paras Jain bt Yashansh Malik & Abhinandh Pradhivadhi 11-13, 11-7, 12-10, 11-4.

Women: Nithya Mani bt Tin-Tin Ho 11-7, 6-11, 5-11, 11-9, 11-7; Ryu Hanna bt Swastika Ghosh 11-4, 8-11, 11-9, 11-6; Sibel Altinkaya by Ayhika Mukherjee 5-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-6; Sofia-Xuan Zhang bt Diya Chitale 11-5, 6-11, 14-12, 11-0; Ryu Hanna bt Sutirtha Mukherjee 11-8, 11-7, 10-12, 11-4.

Doubles: Taneesha Kotecha & Sayali Wani bt Yashaswini Ghorade & Suhana Saini 9-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-6.

Mixed doubles: Manush Shah & Diya Chitale bt Snehit Suravajjula & Sreeja Akula 11-5, 11-3, 11-8.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Padikkal set to miss Karnataka's game against Tripura

Karnataka will miss the services of premier batter Devdutt Padikkal for the Ranji Trophy away match against Tripura starting Jan. 26 in Agartala.
Padikkal, who has been in fine form, was drafted into the India-A side that is currently playing the England Lions in Ahmedabad.
This is expected to be a big jolt to a side that is already missing Manish Pandey because of a hand injury. Speedster Vidwath Kaverappa's potential return after being released from the India-A set-up will however boost Karnataka.

Aneesh and Noronha script Karnataka's big win over J&K

Centuries in both innings from K.V. Aneesh (129 & 101) and all-round effort from Macneil Hadley Noronha (104 & 4/14) helped Karnataka register a thumping 129-run win over Jammu & Kashmir in the Col. C.K. Nayudu (U-23) Trophy match at the Alur Grounds near Bengaluru.

The scores: Karnataka 426 in 114.2 overs (Macneil Hadley Noronha 104, Prakhar Chaturvedi 26, K.V. Aneesh 129, R. Smaran 35, Aneeshwar Gautam 29, Dheeraj J. Gowda 54, Basit Bashir 5/75) & 238/8 in 46.2 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 73, K.V. Aneesh 101, L. Manvanth Kumar 32, Mujtaba Yousuf 4/77) bt Jammu & Kashmir 297 in 88.1 overs (Qazi Junaid Masood 42, Yawer Hassan 67, Kanhaiya Wadhawan 59, Shivansh Sharma 65, Hardik Raj 4/67) & 238 in 56.5 overs (Qazi Junaid Masood 73, Arya Thakur 41, Kawal Preet Singh 39, Yawer Hassan 37, Hardik Raj 3/84, Macneil Hadley Noronha 4/14).

Sethuraman in sole lead

Grandmaster S.P. Sethuraman grabbed sole control of the elite category from overnight leader Abhijeet Gupta via a full-point victory after 55 moves at the 1st Bangalore International Open GMs Chess on Wednesday.
The other overnight leaders, Grandmasters Nigel Short and Mitrabha Guha, signed a draw after thirty mandatory moves. They share the second spot, half a point adrift of the new leader.

Nagal gets direct entry to Bengaluru Open

Sumit Nagal (No.127) is the lone Indian to gain a direct entry into the singles main draw of the dafaNEWS Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger that will be held from Febraury 12 to 18.

At the tournament which will have a ranking cut off at 257, Frenchman Benjamin Bonzi is set to be the highest-rated player at No.106.

Two bronze medals for Tanishka

Karnataka's Tanishka Kalbhairav came away with two bronze medals at the UTT 85th inter-State cadet and sub-junior National Table Tennis Championships in Indore.

In the youth girls (U-13) singles semifinal, Tanishka lost to Maharashtra's Naisha Rewaskar 2-3 (11-7, 11-6, 1-11, 5-11, 8-11) while in doubles, she and partner Raashi V. Rao lost to Ankolika Chakraborthy and Ahona Ray of West Bengal 0-3 (8-11, 6-11, 3-11).

LIVE TELECAST

Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 a.m. & 2 p.m.

India vs England: 1st Test, day 1, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.

Australia vs West Indies: 2nd Test, day 1, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.

Men's U-19 CWC: India vs Ireland, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.